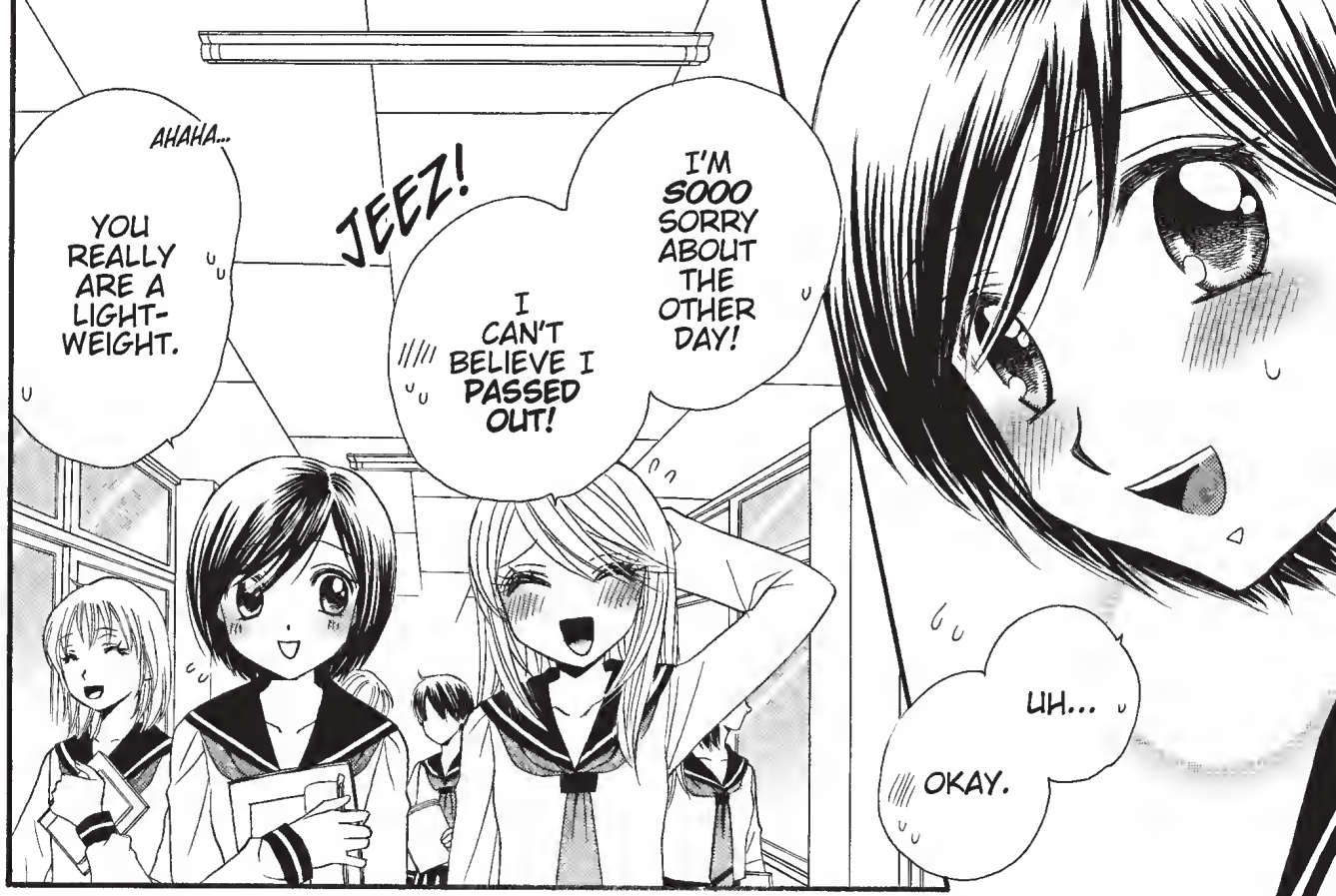
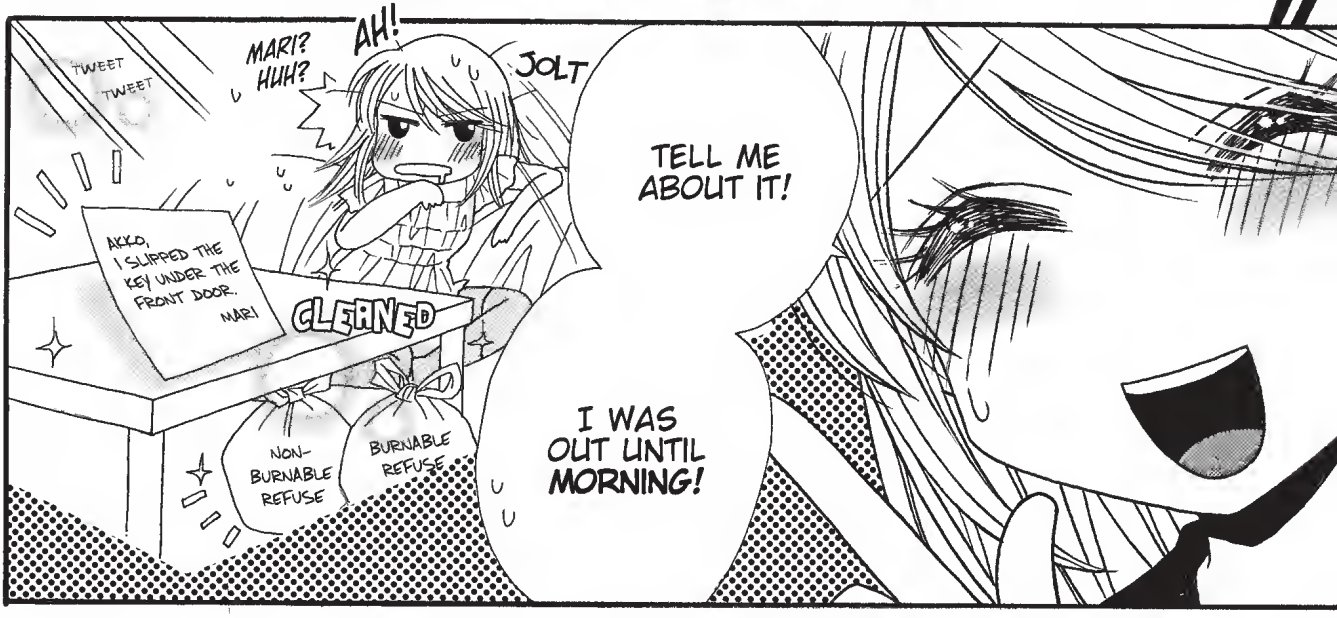
GIRL FRIENDS
[2]
Story & Art by yuri icon MILK MORINAGA

I KISSED
MY BEST
FRIEND.

[CHAPTER 8]

I DID IT WHILE SHE WAS ASLEEP.
IN FACT...
I...
AS-SAULTED HER...
!!!
EVEN IF IT WAS MY FIRST TIME DRINK-ING...
THAT DOESN'T EXCUSE WHAT I DID!
MARI!
FREEZE
NEXT CLASS IS IN THE A.V. ROOM. LET'S GRAB SEATS IN THE BACK!


I'M SOOO SORRY ABOUT THE OTHER DAY!
JEEZ!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I PASSED OUT!
AHAHA...
YOU REALLY ARE A LIGHT-WEIGHT.
UH...
OKAY.


TWEET TWEET
MARI? HUH?
AH!
JOLT
AKKO, I SLIPPED THE KEY UNDER THE FRONT DOOR. MARI
CLEANED
NON-BURNABLE REFUSE
BURNABLE REFUSE
TELL ME ABOUT IT!
I WAS OUT UNTIL MORNING!

HOW'D YOU FIND MY KEYS?
YOU LEFT THEM ON THE TABLE, SO...
OH, THAT'S RIGHT.

THANK GOD...
YOU COULD HAVE WOKEN ME UP BEFORE YOU LEFT, YOU KNOW?
PHEW...
AKKO... SLEPT THROUGH IT ALL.
BUT...
CLATTER
SKRITCH
A.V. ROOM
SKRITCH
CLATTER
WHAT?
GUESS WHAT TAGUCHI TOLD ME!
CLATTER
SHWIP
REALLY?
OH...
SA-TSUKI
SHE SAID SUGI-SAN AND TAMA-MIN HAD A GREAT TIME AT THE GOKON!
?
THE THING IS...

NOT AFTER WHAT HAPPENED.
SWEAT
SWEAT
BLUSH
I JUST CAN'T...
LOOK HER IN THE EYE.
SO, UH...
NO LUCK WITH THE LAST BATCH, HUH?
.....
.....
GROAN
HELL YEAH! I CAN'T WAIT!!
SUGI-SAN MUST KNOW LOTS OF COOL GUYS, RIGHT?
REALLY? THAT'S GREAT!
AND SUGI-SAN PROM-ISED...
THAT SHE'D SET UP THE NEXT GOKON!
BA-THUMP
HA! SOUNDS LIKE WE DIDN'T MISS MUCH!

UH...
RIGHT!
NOD
?
THE DAY AFTER THAT.
THE DAY AFTER.
THE NEXT DAY.
.....

CLEANUP DUTY
HEY, MARI...
UMM...
UH...
HOW'S IT GOING?
FINE!
WH-WHY DO YOU ASK?
STARE
WH-WHAT ABOUT IT...?
CLATTER
CLATTER
YOU'RE ACTING WEIRD, AKKO.
トンネ
MARI, ABOUT THE OTHER NIGHT...
.....
EH?
AKKO, CAN YOU HELP ME TAKE OUT THE TRASH?
HAH!

.....
CAN YOU CARRY THE BURNABLE TRASH?
OH, NEVER MIND!
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
SHE PROBABLY WANTS TO KNOW WHY I'M ACTING WEIRD.
IT'S BEEN SO HARD PLAYING IT COOL...
CLANK
BUT...
WHEN I LOOK AT AKKO...
I CAN NEVER TELL HER...
EVER.
I'M...
DRAWN TO HER LIPS...

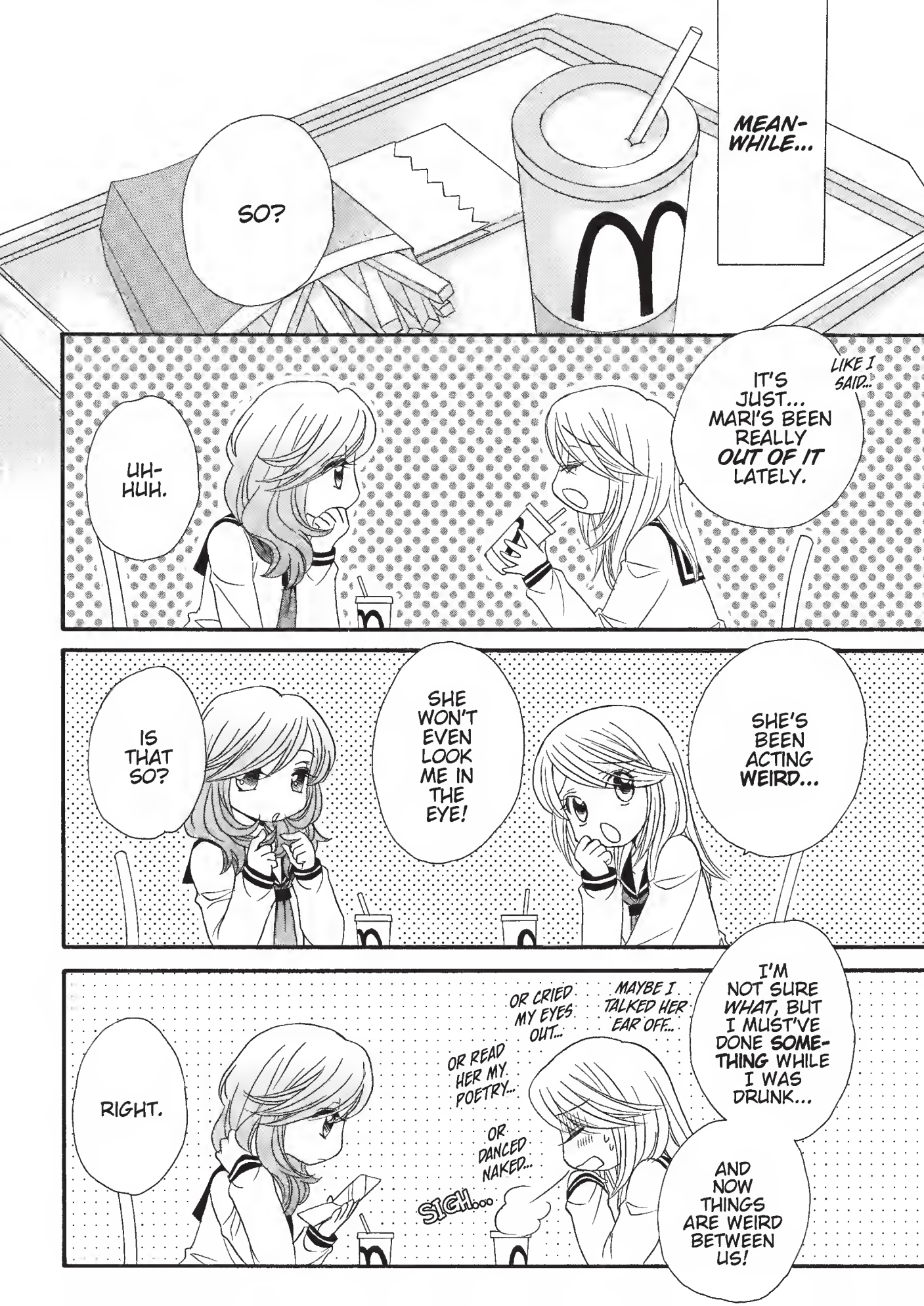
JR 市ケ谷
JR ICHIGAYA
I'LL JUST ACT...
LIKE NOTHING EVER HAPPENED.
HEY, AKKO, WANT TO SWING BY MCDONALD'S?
HUH?
OH, TOO BAD!
SORRY, BUT...
I NEED TO WATCH MY WEIGHT.
OH? YOU'RE STILL ON A DIET?
YEAH...
.....
SEE YOU!
BYE, MARI!
SEE YA!
AKIHABARA. AKIHABARA.

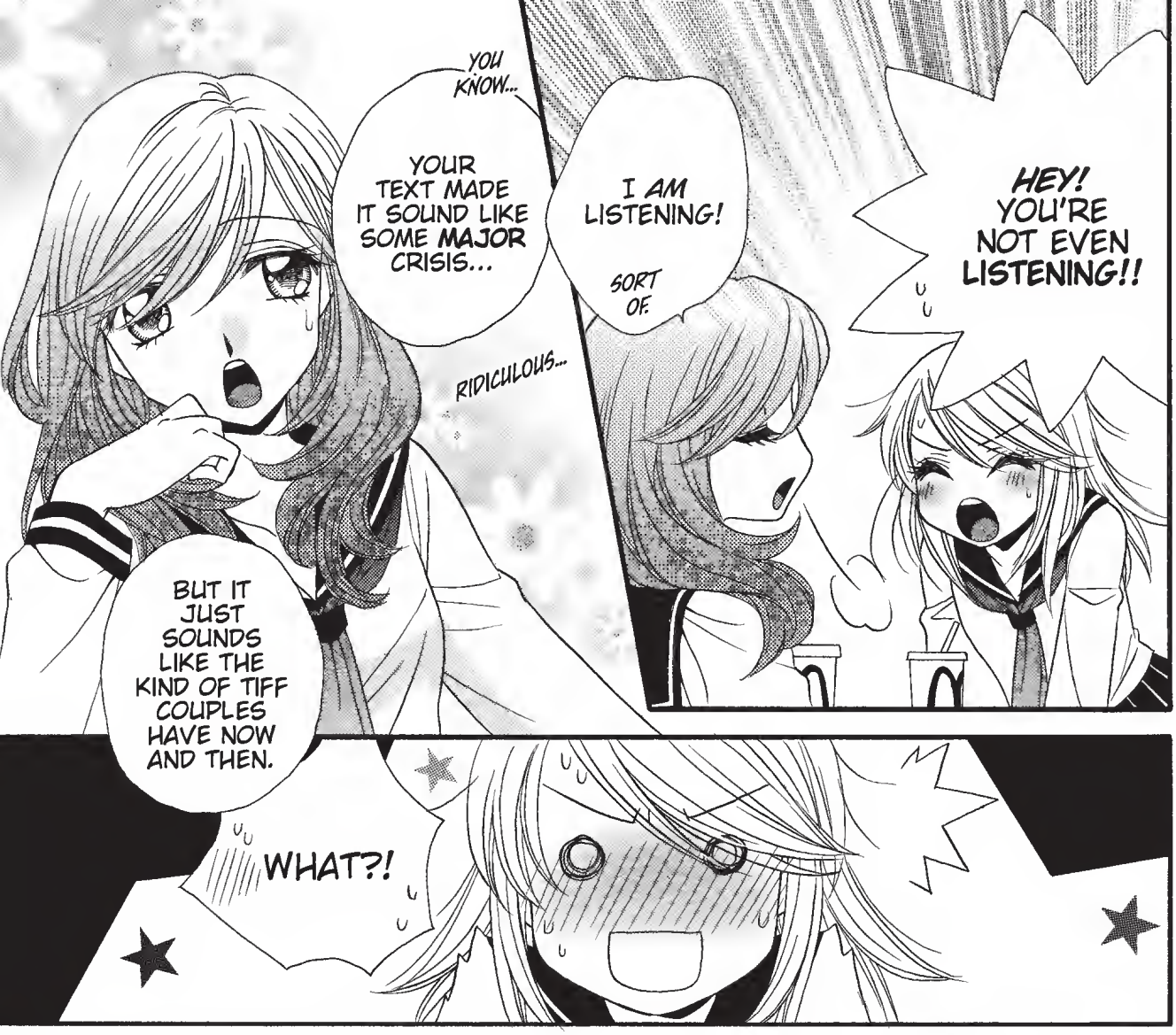
MULTIMEDIA
ENTR
INFOR
GOLF SHOP
RESTAURAN
ENTRANCE
HMM?
SUGI-SAN?
MAYBE... IS SHE WAITING FOR HER BOY-FRIEND?
I HAVE SOME TIME, SO I'LL GO TO THE BOOKSTORE.

I WONDER WHICH ONE...
SUGI-SAN--
TWITCH
EH...?
HIYA!
AKKO?

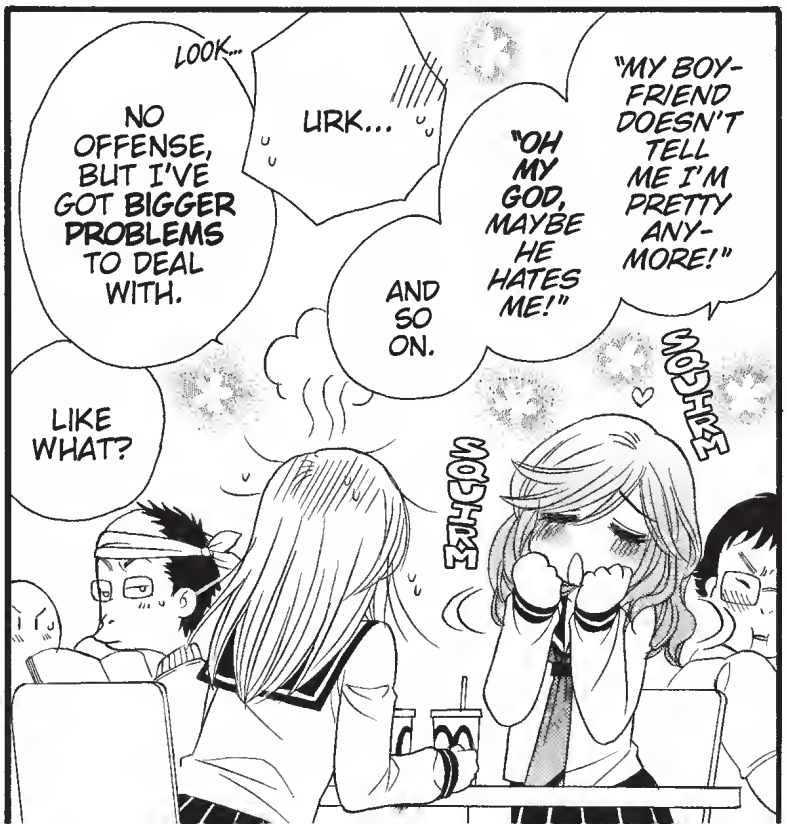
.....
donald's
TURN
OH, SO AKKO'S...
NOT ON A DIET AFTER ALL.
IS SHE HIDING SOMETHING FROM ME?
ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT ME RIGHT NOW?
SHE JUST DIDN'T WANT TO HANG OUT WITH ME.
BUT SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO GO BEHIND MY BACK LIKE THAT.

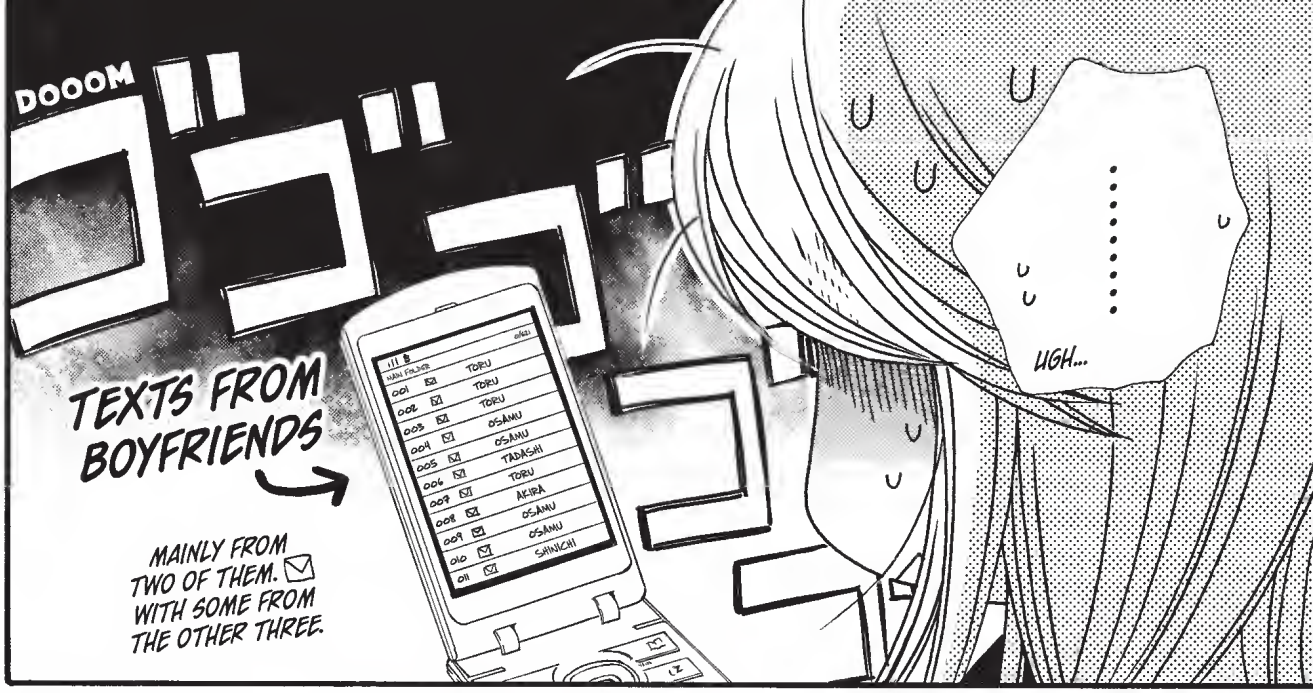
MARI...
ABOUT THE OTHER NIGHT...
IT'S...
IT'S NONE OF MY BUSI-NESS...
AH!
OH...
OH NO...!
日比谷
HIBIYA LI
出口1
お知らせ

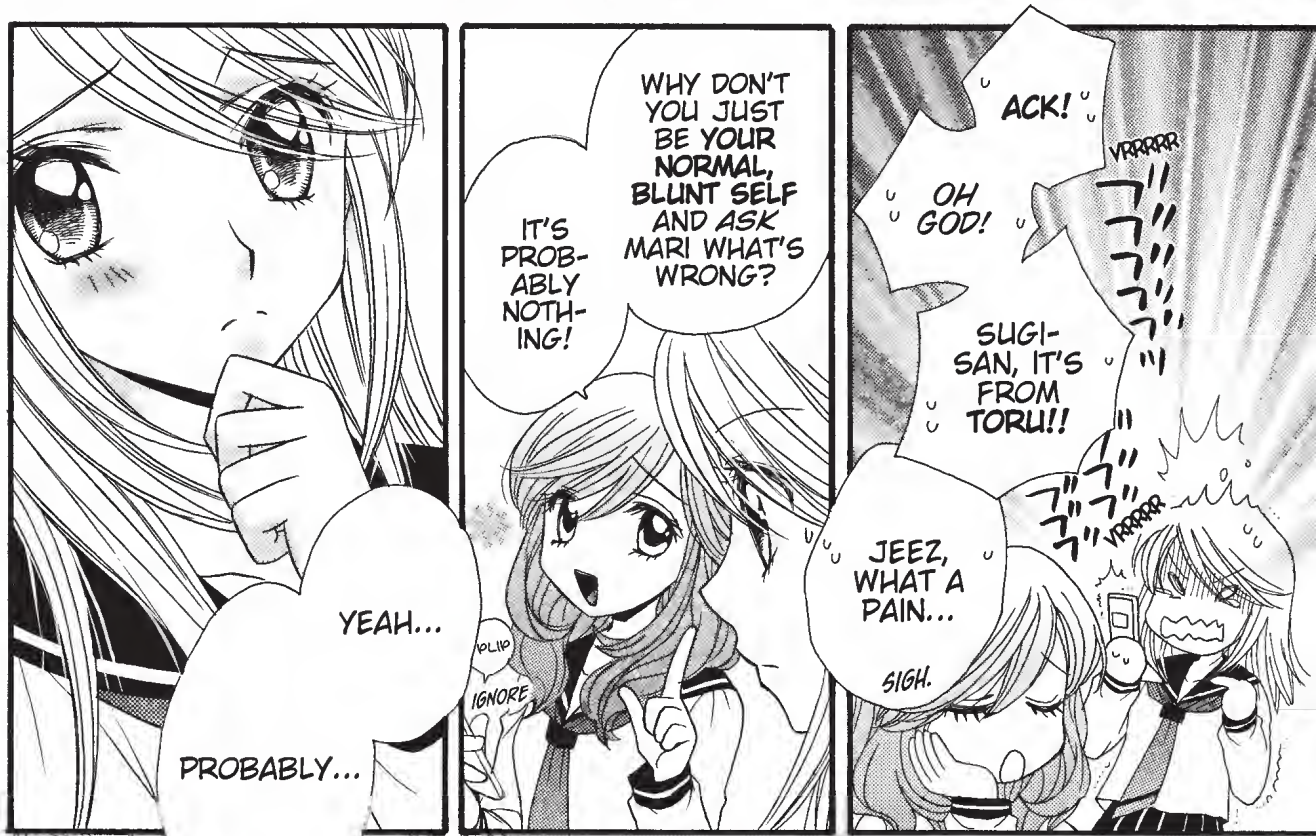

MEAN-WHILE...
SO?
UH-HUH.
IT'S JUST... MARI'S BEEN REALLY OUT OF IT LATELY.
LIKE I SAID...
IS THAT SO?
SHE WON'T EVEN LOOK ME IN THE EYE!
SHE'S BEEN ACTING WEIRD...
RIGHT.
OR READ HER MY POETRY...
OR CRIED MY EYES OUT...
MAYBE I TALKED HER EAR OFF...
OR DANCED NAKED...
SIGH...boo
I'M NOT SURE WHAT, BUT I MUST'VE DONE SOME-THING WHILE I WAS DRUNK...
AND NOW THINGS ARE WEIRD BETWEEN US!


HEY! YOU'RE NOT EVEN LISTENING!!
I AM LISTENING!
SORT OF.
YOU KNOW...
YOUR TEXT MADE IT SOUND LIKE SOME MAJOR CRISIS...
RIDICULOUS...
BUT IT JUST SOUNDS LIKE THE KIND OF TIFF COUPLES HAVE NOW AND THEN.
WHAT?!

MY BOYFRIENDS FOUND OUT I WAS FIVE-TIMING THEM.
WHAT?!
FIVE-TIMING?!
LOOK AT ALL THE TEXTS...
CLICK

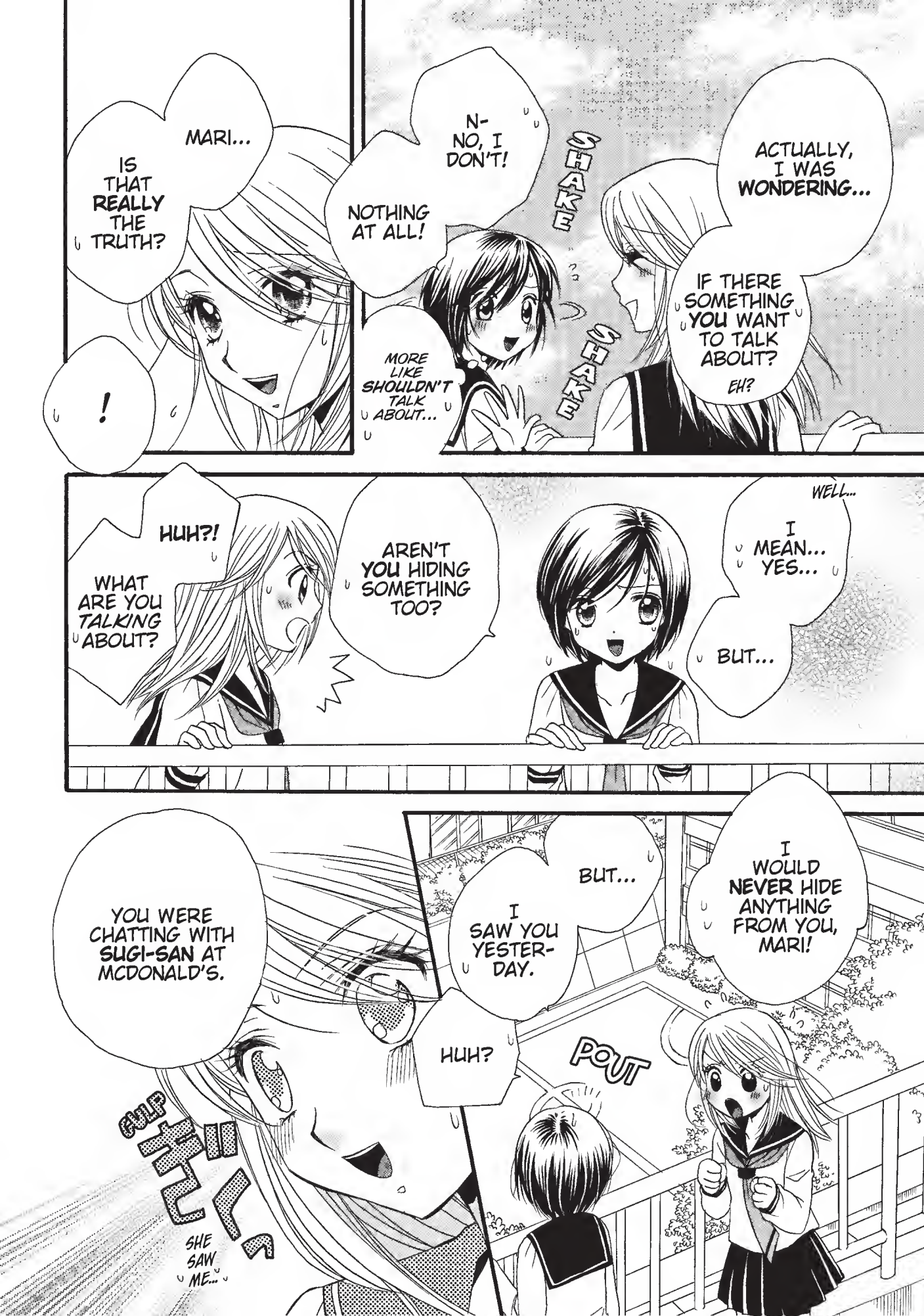

LOOK...
NO OFFENSE, BUT I'VE GOT BIGGER PROBLEMS TO DEAL WITH.
LIKE WHAT?
URK...
AND SO ON.
"OH MY GOD, MAYBE HE HATES ME!"
"MY BOYFRIEND DOESN'T TELL ME I'M PRETTY ANYMORE!"
SOBBING
SOBBING

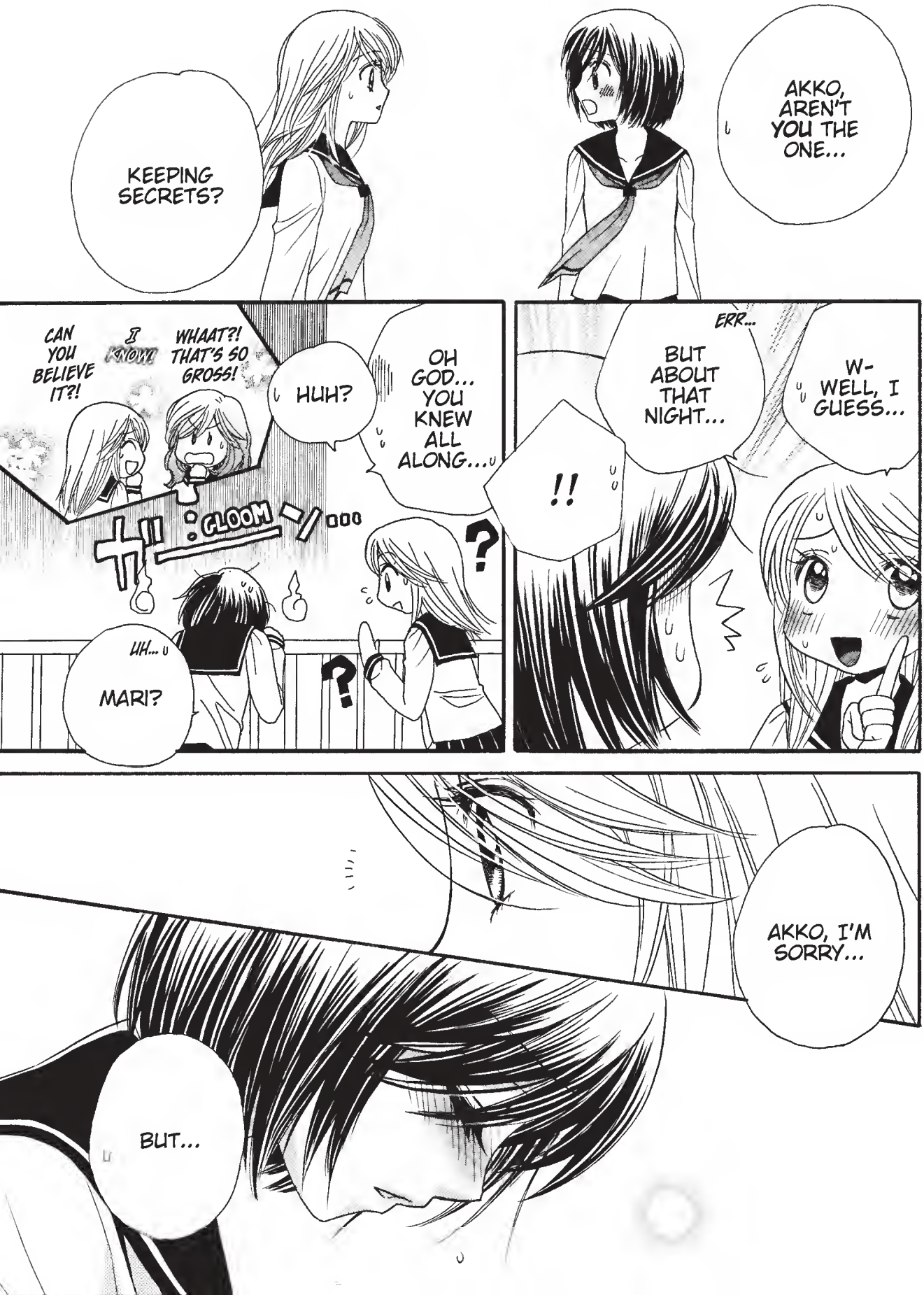

DOOOM
ゴゴゴゴ
TEXTS FROM BOYFRIENDS
MAINLY FROM TWO OF THEM. WITH SOME FROM THE OTHER THREE.
MAIN FOLDER
001 TORU
002 TORU
003 TORU
004 OSAMU
005 OSAMU
006 TADASHI
007 TORU
008 AKIRA
009 OSAMU
010 OSAMU
011 SHINICHI
UGH...


ACK!
OH GOD!
VRRRRR
SUGI-SAN, IT'S FROM TORU!!
VRRRRR
JEEZ, WHAT A PAIN...
SIGH.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST BE YOUR NORMAL, BLUNT SELF AND ASK MARI WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S PROB-ABLY NOTH-ING!
PLIP
IGNORE
YEAH...
PROBABLY...

THE NEXT DAY.
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

COULDN'T SLEEP EITHER.
TWITCH
TWITCH
COULDN'T SLEEP.
DRIP
DRIP
ACT...
...NOR-MAL.
BEEEP
BING
SUPER AWKWARD.
超きんちょう。
BOOING
Y-YOU WANTED TO TALK ABOUT SOME-THING?
Y-YEAH...
WHOOSH


ACTUALLY, I WAS WONDERING...
IF THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?
EH?
SHAKE
SHAKE
N-NO, I DON'T!
NOTHING AT ALL!
MORE LIKE SHOULDN'T TALK ABOUT...
MARI...
IS THAT REALLY THE TRUTH?
!
WELL...
I MEAN... YES...
BUT...
AREN'T YOU HIDING SOMETHING TOO?
HUH?!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I WOULD NEVER HIDE ANYTHING FROM YOU, MARI!
POUT
BUT... I SAW YOU YESTER-DAY.
HUH?
YOU WERE CHATTING WITH SUGI-SAN AT MCDONALD'S.
GULP
SHE SAW ME...


AKKO, AREN'T YOU THE ONE...
KEEPING SECRETS?
W-WELL, I GUESS...
ERR...
BUT ABOUT THAT NIGHT...
!!
OH GOD... YOU KNEW ALL ALONG...
HUH?
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?!
I KNOW!
WHAAT?! THAT'S SO GROSS!
GLOOM
UH...
MARI?
AKKO, I'M SORRY...
BUT...

TREMBLE
ぎゅっ
I DID IT.
I'M SORRY.
IT'S JUST...
BEFORE I KNEW IT...
WHEN I SAW YOUR SLEEPING FACE, AKKO...
AKKO...
I KISSED YOU.

KISSED ME...?
OH... GOSH...
GULP...
SHE'S PROBABLY GROSSED OUT...
THAT A GIRL KISSED HER.
THAT NIGHT?
WHILE I WAS ASLEEP?
AH!
I'M SORRY! I--
BLURT
OHHHH, THAT'S ALL?

MARI, IS THAT WHY YOU'VE BEEN AVOIDING ME?
IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL! AT ALL!
EH?
BUT... BUT--
FRIENDS... DO THAT?
WHAT?
SURE! DIDN'T I SHOW YOU THOSE OLD PHOTOS WHERE SUGI-SAN IS KISSING ME?
AND TAMA-MIN KISSES EVERYONE WHEN SHE GETS DRUNK. SHE'S KISSED ME, LIKE, A DOZEN TIMES!
REALLY!
FRIENDS KISS EACH OTHER ALL THE TIME!!
SO DON'T WORRY, MARI.
IT'S COOL BETWEEN FRIENDS.
IT'S ALL IN FUN, YOU KNOW?

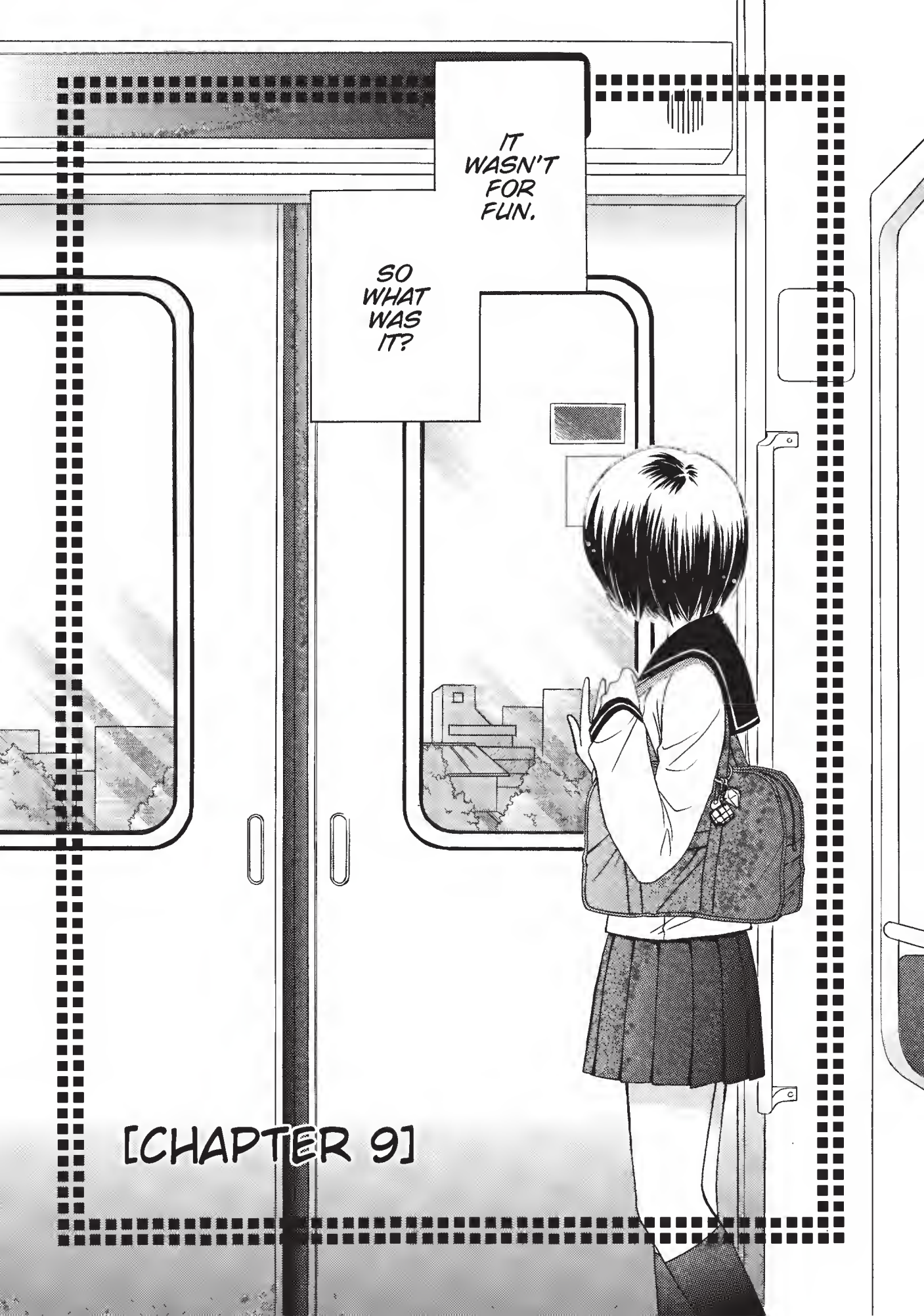
I GUESS I OVER-REACTED...
AHAHA...
KISSING BETWEEN FRIENDS...
IT'S ONLY A GREET-ING...
OH, OKAY...
RIGHT.
I WAS REALLY WORRIED!
I THOUGHT I DID SOMETHING TOTALLY STUPID.
SO THAT'S WHAT WAS BUGGING YOU?
AND JUST FOR FUN.
BUT IT WAS MORE THAN THAT.
WHEN I KISSED HER...
WAIT, WHY DID I KISS AKKO?

I COULDN'T SEE AKKO'S FACE...
WHY ...?
HEY, ARE YOU BLUSHING?
JEEZ, MARI...
BECAUSE IF I SEE HER SMILE AT ME...
I'LL...
I'LL WANT TO KISS HER AGAIN.
YOU'RE TOO CUTE FOR WORDS, YOU KNOW THAT?
♬

WINTER
UNIFORM

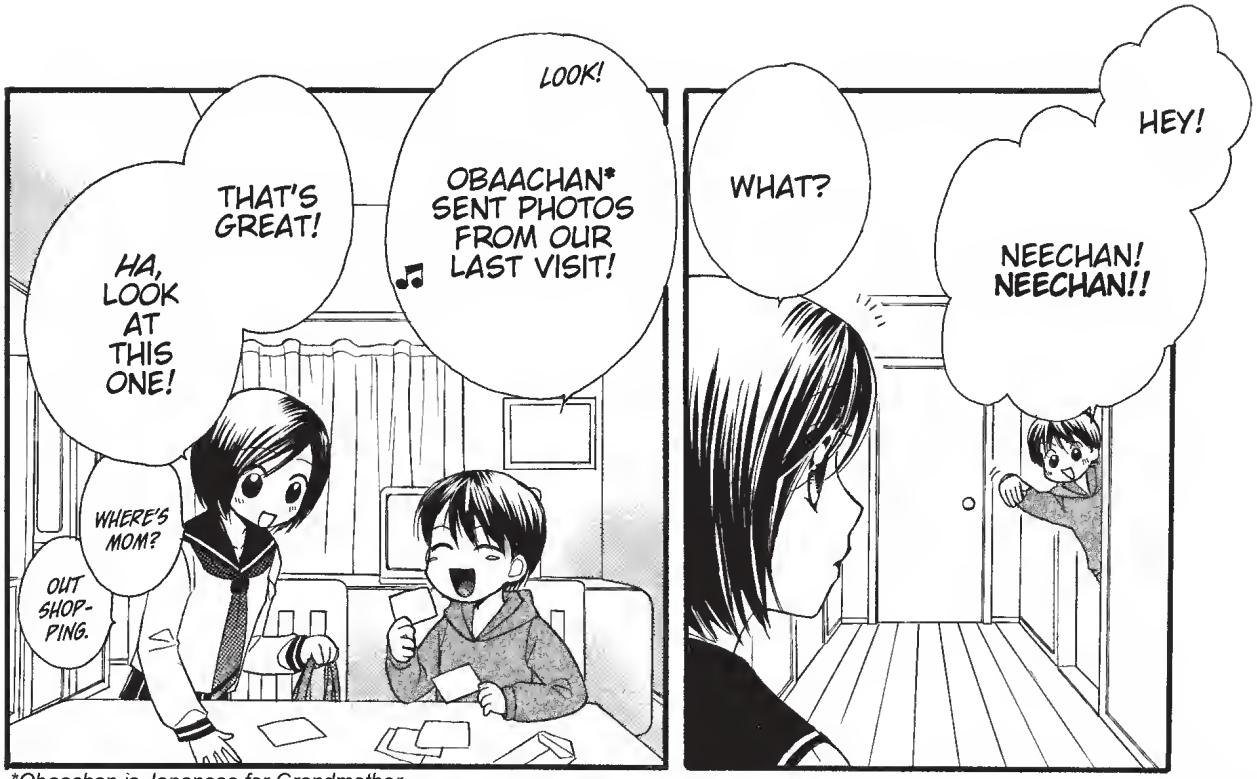
GIRL FRIENDS — ガールフレンズ —

IT'S ONLY A GREETING.
FRIENDS KISS EACH OTHER ALL THE TIME!
IT'S NOTHING TO FREAK OUT ABOUT.
IT'S ALL IN FUN, YOU KNOW?
GA-CLANK
THAT'S...
WHAT AKKO SAID, BUT...
BUT WHEN I KISSED HER...
GA-CLANK
GA-CLANK

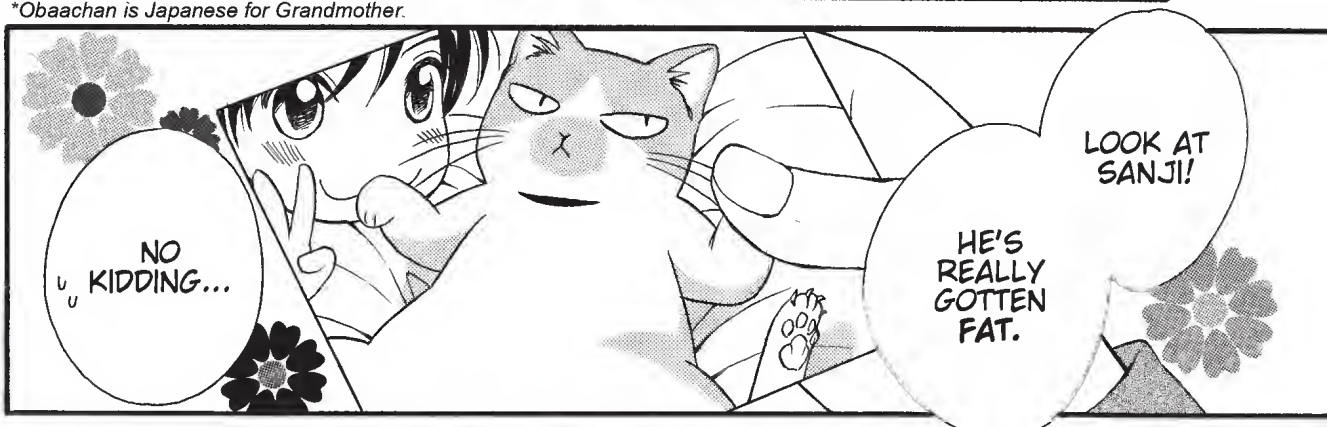


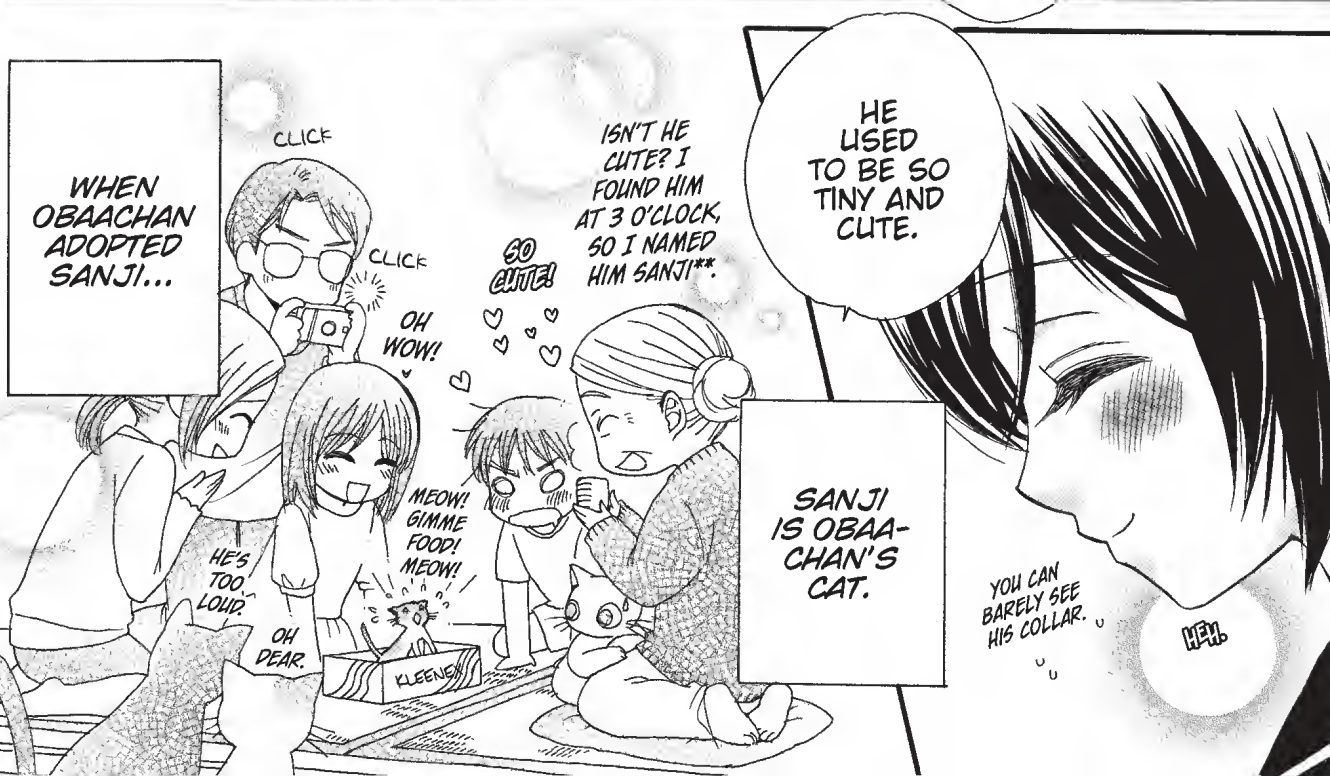
[CHAPTER 9]

IT'S BEEN A FEW DAYS NOW.
I CAN FINALLY LOOK HER IN THE EYE AGAIN, BUT...
BUT WHEN I SEE HER FACE...
BLUSH
I...
I JUST WANT TO KISS HER AGAIN.
AM I A BAD FRIEND?
MAYBE...
MAYBE I JUST FEEL THIS WAY BECAUSE WE'RE SO CLOSE.
I'VE NEVER HAD ANY CLOSE FRIENDS BEFORE...
SO MAYBE...
THIS KIND OF THING HAPPENS BETWEEN BEST FRIENDS?
I'M HOME!



*Obaachan is Japanese for Grandmother.





**Sanji (サンジ) means 3 o'clock.

HE WAS SO TINY AND ADORABLE.
SMOOCH♡
HEY, MY TURN!
I COULDN'T HELP BUT KISS HIM.
HE SMELLED LIKE MILK AND FELT SO SOFT...
EVEN FAT, HE'S STILL CUTE!
AW MAN, I WANT A CAT! ♡
.....
OH!
!
IN A WAY...
AKKO'S KIND OF LIKE A KITTY.
SHE'S SMALL AND CUTE.
AND SMELLS REALLY NICE...

YEAH! LET'S ASK MOM!
MAYBE SHE'LL LET US GET A CAT TODAY!
HUH?
YEP, REALLY CUTE!
I GET IT NOW!
UMM...
FARM?
I DON'T THINK THERE ARE ANY AROUND HERE...
ALL RIGHT!
LET'S GO TO THE FARM!
WAIT... WHAT?!
KITTY CAT!
WE'RE GONNA GET A CAT!
OH!
IT'S FROM AKKO...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING AFTER SCHOOL TOMORROW? SUGI-SAN AND TAMA-MIN ARE COMING OVER TO MY HOUSE~! WANNA COME?

IT ALL MAKES SENSE NOW.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE THE FOUR OF US GOT TOGETHER.
OF COURSE! ♡
HEE.
CLICK
CLICK
I'M HOME.
HM? WHERE'S MASA?
I ASKED HIM NOT TO GO OUT...
UM...
WELL...
JUST LIKE HOW YOU WANT TO KISS PUPPIES AND KITTENS...
AKKO HAS THE SAME EFFECT ON ME.
GREAT...
ALL I FOUND WAS THIS SNAIL.
SNIFF
I COULDN'T FIND ANY FARMS OR STRAY CATS...
THE NEXT DAY AFTER SCHOOL.
COME ON IN!
HIYA! ♬
HEY.

AKKO, YOU'RE LUCKY TO GET THE HOUSE TO YOURSELF SO OFTEN!
MY PARENTS ARE ALWAYS EITHER HOME OR WORKING IN OUR STORE.
WE'VE GOT A LOT OF FOOD...
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
TAMA-MIN, YOU BOUGHT TOO MANY SNACKS!
YOU'RE GOING TO GAIN WEIGHT AGAIN.
ACK!
AHA HA HA!
SO, SUGI-SAN, TAMA-MIN...
VITAMIN TEA
WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TELL MARI?
YOU GUYS SAID YOU WANTED TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING.
EH?
YOU DID?
WHAT?
.....

YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO GO TOO, RIGHT, MARI-CHIN?
AFTER THE LAST GOKON, WE WERE THINKING...
BUT, MARI-CHAN, WASN'T THAT SUPPOSED TO BE YOUR FIRST GOKON?
UMM.
YES, BUT...
LOVES GOKONS.
OH, NO PROBLEM! ♡
I'VE BEEN SO WRAPPED UP WITH MYSELF...
AH!
Y-YEAH! I NEVER THANKED YOU FOR FILLING IN FOR US.
HUH?
WHADDYA MEAN?
FOR SURE!
SEE? THEY WOULD HAVE EATEN HER ALIVE!
?

AND THE CLUELESS WONDER HERE'S NO HELP.
HEY!
WHAT'S THAT MEAN?!
SEE?
I SHOULDN'T TALK BADLY ABOUT TAGU-CHAN'S CO-WORKERS...
BUT HALF THOSE GUYS WERE JUST THERE TO GET LAID.
WHAT? FOR REAL?!
THE OTHER HALF WERE OVER-GROWN MAN-CHILDREN.
PFFT
EH? BUT I THOUGHT THAT THEY WERE ALL OLDER THAN US...
SO, MARI-CHIN, BEFORE SOME JERK TAKES ADVANTAGE...
WE'RE GOING TO TEACH YOU EVERYTHING WE KNOW!
YOU'LL BE A HEARTBREAKER IN NO TIME!
"TAKES ADVAN-TAGE"...?
OH...
OKAY...
A HEART-BREAKER?
UMM...

TA-DAH!!
DON'T DRINK KAHLUA AND MILK!
RULE NUMBER ONE: IF YOU'RE A LIGHTWEIGHT WHEN IT COMES TO BOOZE...
I SHOULD'VE BOUGHT SOME MILK...
HEY!
THAT'S MINE! WERE YOU GOING THROUGH OUR KITCHEN?!
AND COCKTAILS HAVE A LOT OF CALORIES.
UM, UNDER-AGE GIRLS SHOULDN'T DRINK IN THE FIRST PLACE...
YEP, SOME GIRLS STILL FALL FOR THAT OLD TRICK!
WHEN A GIRL SAYS, "I DON'T DRINK MUCH..." THE GUY WILL TELL HER, "TRY THIS. IT'S NICE AND SWEET!" AND GET HER NICE AND DRUNK THAT WAY.
PAT
BUT... I THOUGHT KAHLUA AND MILK WAS AKKO'S FAVORITE DRINK?
REALLY, SUGI-SAN...!!
IT WAS JUST AN EXAMPLE!
?
SORRY, SORRY!

DON'T EVER PLAY THE O-SAMA GAME!!
RULE NUMBER TWO!
IF YOU'VE CHECKED OUT THE GUYS AND NONE OF THEM ARE WORTHY...
WRITE THIS DOWN!
UMM...
IF THE GUYS AREN'T WORTHY...
"WORTHY"?
PEOPLE STILL PLAY THAT GAME?
ABSO-LUTELY!
IT CAN BE WORTH IT IF THERE'S A HOTTIE IN THE MIX...
UM, EXCUSE ME...
I'VE HEARD OF IT...
BUT WHAT IS THE "O-SAMA GAME"?
BUT I HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO PLAY...
OH GOD, WE HAVE TO START WITH THE VERY BASICS?!
WELL, I GUESS WE'LL JUST HAVE TO DO IT THIS WAY...
SNAP

WE'LL PLAY THE O-SAMA GAME OURSELVES! ♪
HEE HEE
HEE HEE!
THEY WANTED TO PLAY ALL ALONG.
OH, SO YOU DRAW LOTS...
OKAY, PICK ONE.
AHA! ♡
I'M THE O-SAMA! ♡
AS THE O-SAMA, I GIVE THE ORDERS!
HMM, WHAT SHOULD I DO?
IT'S ONLY THE THREE OF US, SO DON'T GO CRAZY.
DON'T SHOW YOUR NUMBER TO ANYONE!
WELL THEN...

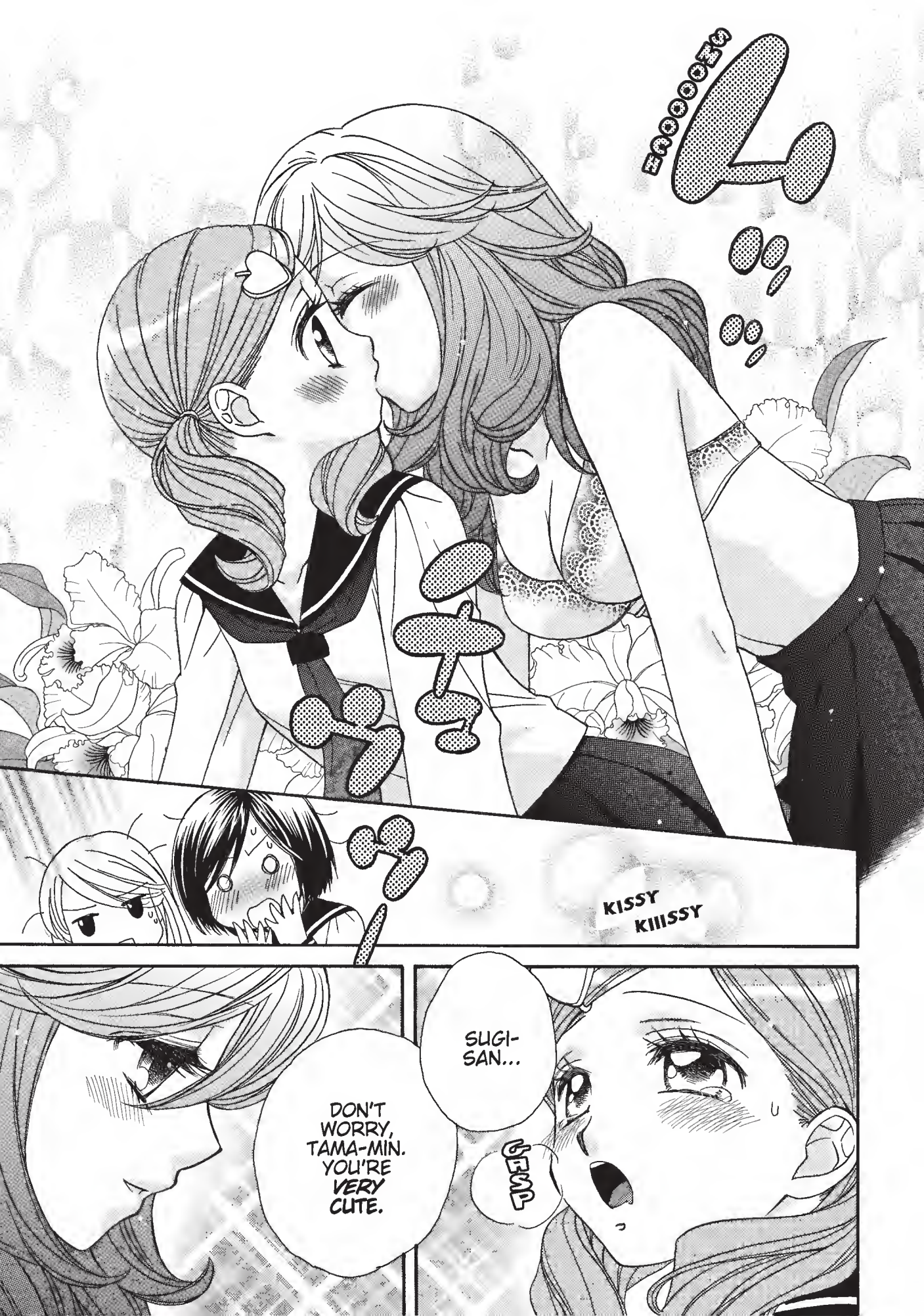
I ORDER NUMBER 2...
TO KISS NUMBER 1!!
WHAT?!
K-KISS?!
AHAHA! CLASSIC!
YOU MUST OBEY THE O-SAMA'S ORDERS...
WHO GOT 1 AND 2?
HEH
HEH
HEH.
HEH
HEH
SUGI-SAN...
SHE'S ENJOYING THIS...
OH MY GOSH...
NOT AGAIN.
I'M... NUMBER 1!!
1
I HAVE TO KISS A FRIEND AGAIN...?

DID SHE DRAW NUMBER 2?
GLANCE
NO WAY!
ドキン
BA-THUMP
ACK...
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?!!
IT'S LIKE KISSING PUPPIES AND KITTIES...
NOTHING WEIRD ABOUT IT...
I... I'M NUMBER 1.
APPARENTLY.
HUH? MARI?
UM... THAT WOULD BE ME.
YEP!
PERFECT! WHO HAS NUMBER 2?
TAP
ドキン
BA-THUMP
ドキン
BA-THUMP

LEAN
HERE WE GO! ♡
JOLT
OH.
HEY, GUYS...
GOTTA GET A PIC OF THIS. ♫
MMM?
WITH TAMA-MIN?!
HUH?!
WHAT, THE--?!
SWAY
SWAY
T-TAMA-MIN'S...
K-KISS...
LIPS?!
DIZZY
N-NO...

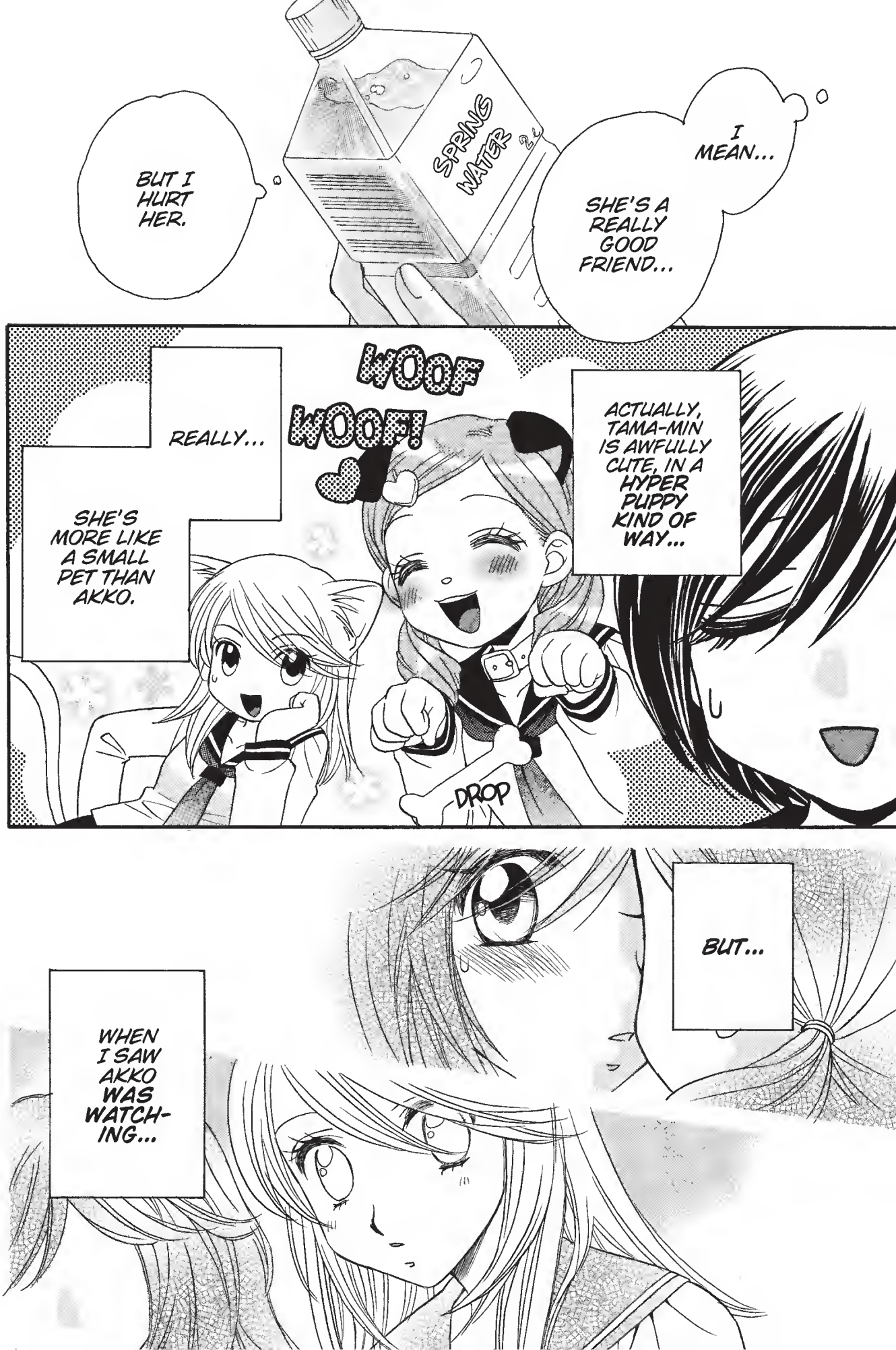
KICK
STOP!!
THWACK
OH MY.
KA-CLICK
WIBBLE
MARI-CHIN...
THAT HURT~!
SHAKE SHAKE
I'M SO SORRY!
I...
AH!
NICE PHOTO, THOUGH...
OH MY...

DASH
OH GOSH, I'M SO SORRY!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
UM...
HUH?
YOU HATE ME!
AM I REALLY THAT UN-ATTRAC-TIVE?
SOB SOB SOB
NOBODY LOVES ME...
PLIP PLIP
YOU ALMOST SNAPPED MY NECK TOO...
FLUTTER
EH?
WHA?


KISSY
KIIISSY
SUGI-SAN...
DON'T WORRY, TAMA-MIN. YOU'RE VERY CUTE.
GASP

JUST LEAVE THEM ALONE, MARI.
THEY GET ALL HANDSY WHEN THEY'RE DRUNK.
SMOOCH
OH MY GOSH, SOMEBODY DOES LOVE ME!
PAT PAT
SCENE 3
OF COURSE! YOU'RE ADORABLE!
I'LL MAKE LOVE TO YOU ANYTIME, TAMA-MIN!
SO IT'S NOT JUST ME...
AH!
JEEZ!
HOW THE HELL DID THEY MANAGE TO DRINK SO MUCH?!
AND RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSES!
PUCKY
PUCKY
PUCKY

MARI, CAN YOU GET SOME WATER FROM THE FRIDGE?
AHA HA HA HA!
BOOBIES!
S-SURE!
HEY, WE'RE NOT THAT DRUNK, RIGHT, TAMA-MIN?
RIGHT! ☆
AKKO SURE HAS HER HANDS FULL...
TP
TP
YOUR SCHOOL UNIFORMS ARE GOING TO SMELL LIKE BOOZE!!
FLOWER BARLEY TEA
FLOWER BARLEY TEA
BUT... GOSH...
SPRING WATER
CA-CHAK
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN ANYONE KISS LIKE THAT.
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS JUST BE-TWEEN FRIENDS...
I FEEL BAD FOR HURTING TAMA-MIN.


SPRING WATER 2L
BUT I HURT HER.
I MEAN... SHE'S A REALLY GOOD FRIEND...
WOOF WOOF!
REALLY... SHE'S MORE LIKE A SMALL PET THAN AKKO.
ACTUALLY, TAMA-MIN IS AWFULLY CUTE, IN A HYPER PUPPY KIND OF WAY...
DROP
BUT...
WHEN I SAW AKKO WAS WATCH-ING...

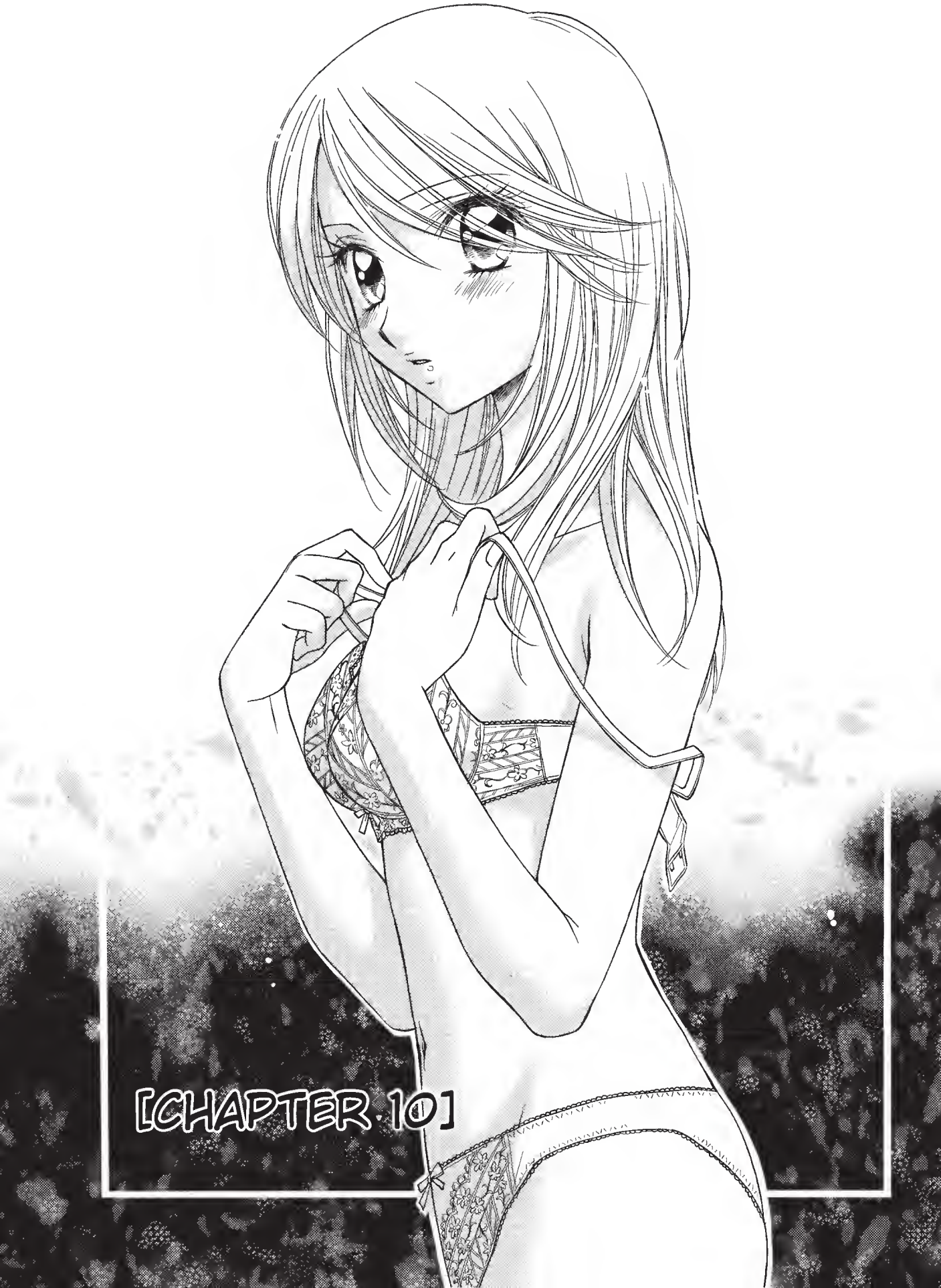
AH!!
AND SUGI-SAN TOOK A PHOTO!!
THAT'S NOT GOOD...
OH GOD!
I TOLD YOU I NEVER WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT EVER AGAIN!
AKKO?
STOP BRINGING IT UP, SUGI-SAN!
AHAHAHA! SORRY!
BUT IT'S ALL IN THE PAST, RIGHT?
WELL, SURE, BUT--
HUH? WHAT'S IN THE PAST?
OH!
YOU MEAN "MISTER KAHLUA-AND-MILK," RIGHT?

YOU MEAN YOUR EX, RIGHT, AKKO?
THE GUY YOU SLEPT WITH.
WHAT...?

WINTER UNIFORM & SWEATER

GIRL FRIENDS — ガールフレンズ —

YOU MEAN YOUR EX, RIGHT, AKKO?
THE GUY YOU SLEPT WITH.
SPRING
THE ONE FROM THE GOKON LAST SUMMER?


[CHAPTER 10]

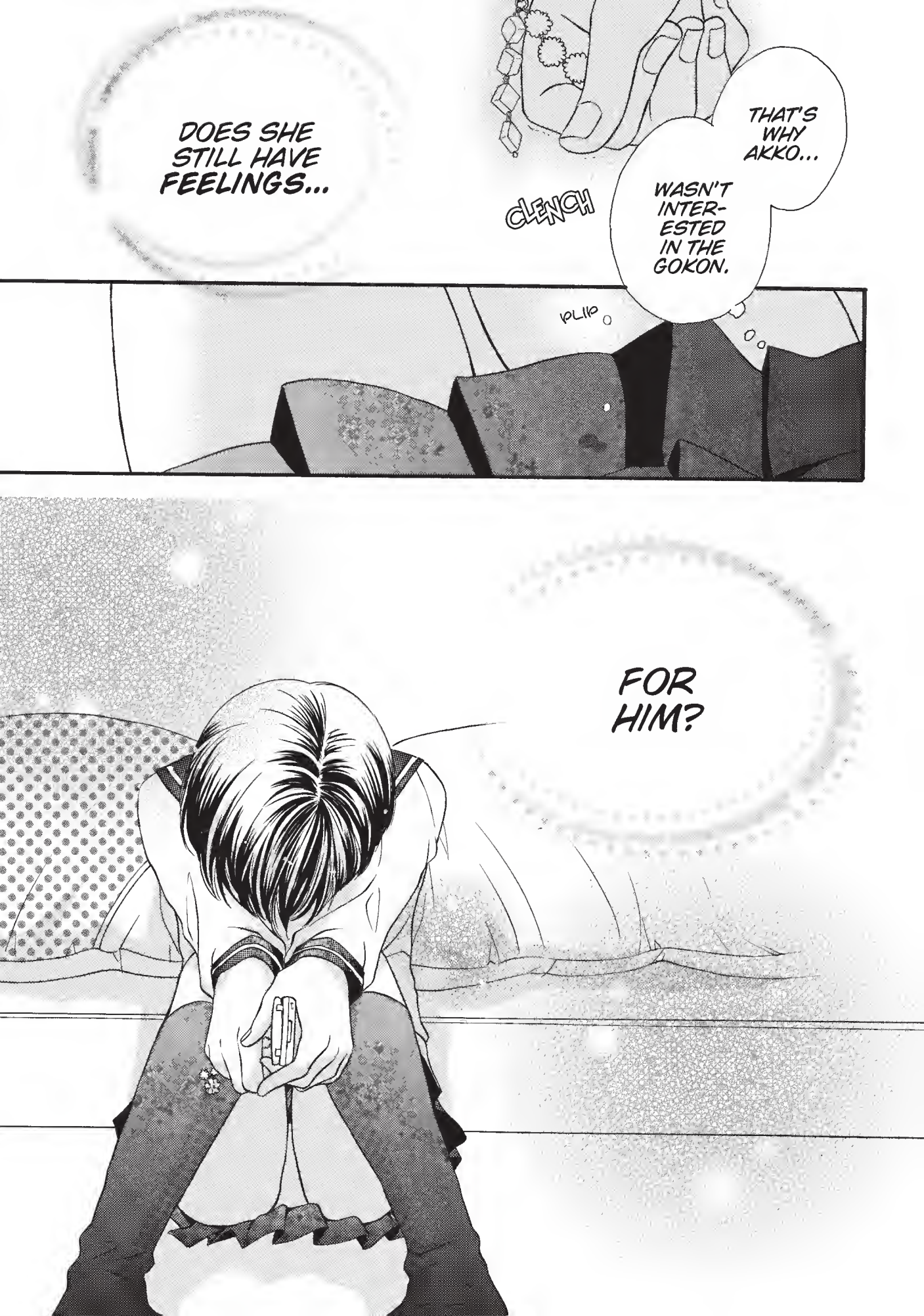
OH? DID YOU EAT ALREADY?
TP TP
YEAH, AT AKKO'S PLACE. TAMA-MIN BOUGHT A TON OF SNACKS.
GA-CHAK
ガチャン
MARIKO? IS THAT YOU?
THERE'S SOME DINNER FOR YOU IN THE FRIDGE.
OH...
THAT'S OKAY. I'M NOT HUNGRY.
EH?
WAIT A MINUTE!
WHAT ABOUT DINNER?
MARI...?
THUMP

SLIDE
SLUMP
.....
SIGH...
I'M... JUST TIRED.
.....
TILT
JOLT
HM?

RELIEVED
JUNK MAIL.
PHEW...
CLICK
.....
OH! I LIKE THAT ONE!
OH YEAH?
SO CUTE!
GOSH!!
OKAY, TELL YOU WHAT...
LET'S GET THE SAME STRAP!
SAME DESIGN BUT DIFFERENT COLORS!
♫
MARI, WHICH ONE DO YOU WANT?

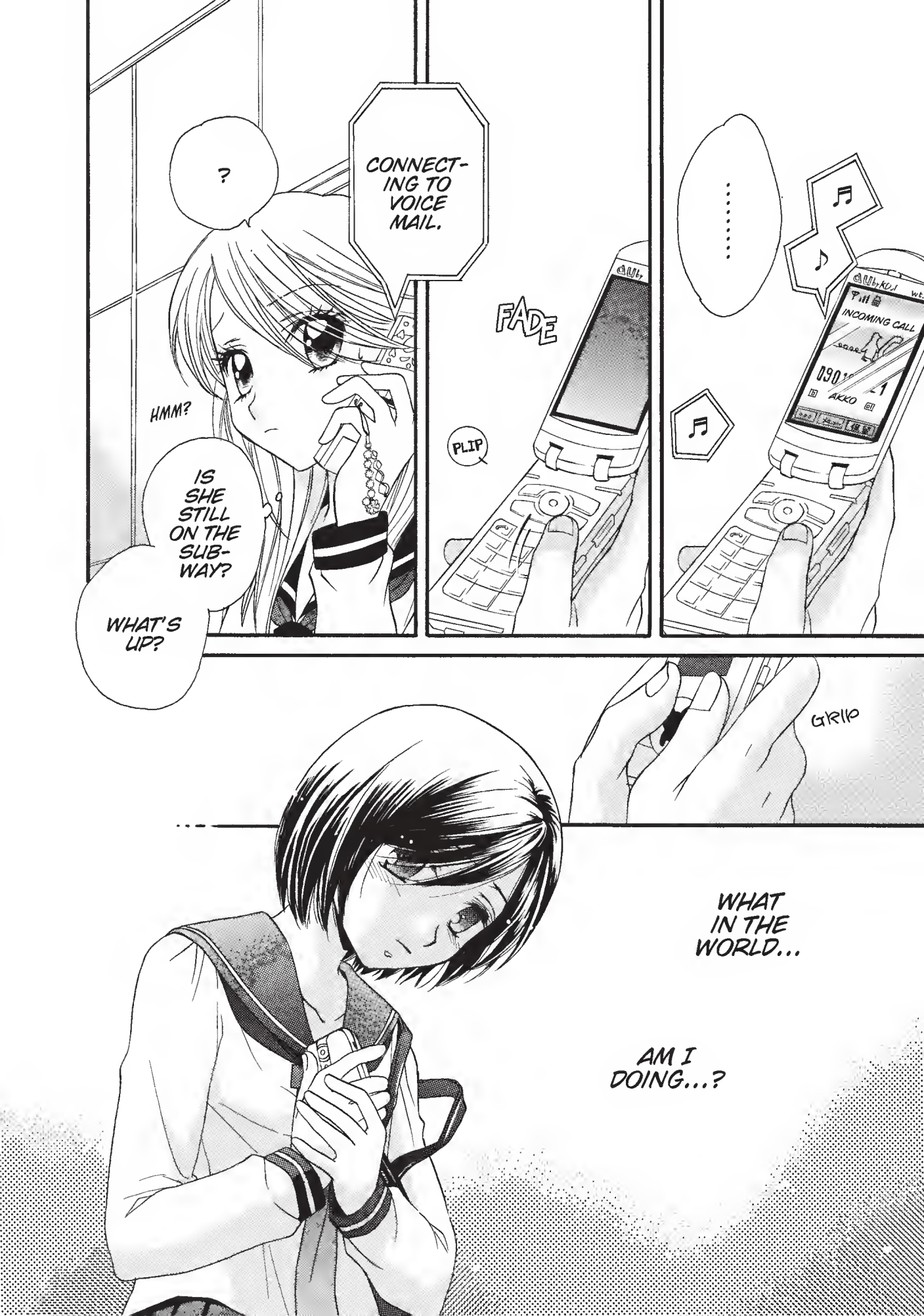
HOW LONG WERE THEY TOGETHER?

WHAT WAS HE LIKE?


DOES SHE STILL HAVE FEELINGS...
CLENCH
THAT'S WHY AKKO...
WASN'T INTER-ESTED IN THE GOKON.
PLIP
FOR HIM?

秋葉原
AKIHABARA
PLATFORM 5, SOBU LINE, LOCAL TRAIN TO MITAKA.
DOORS ARE NOW CLOSING.
OH NO!
C'MON, ANOTHER ZIT?
NOT COOL...
.....
MARI'S LATE...
SIGH.
JEEZ.
IT'S BECAUSE OF ALL THAT JUNK FOOD TAMA-MIN BROUGHT!

TRAIN ARRIVING AT PLATFORM 5.
PLEASE STAY BEHIND THE WHITE LINE.
TURN
しゃっ
……
BEEP
……
!

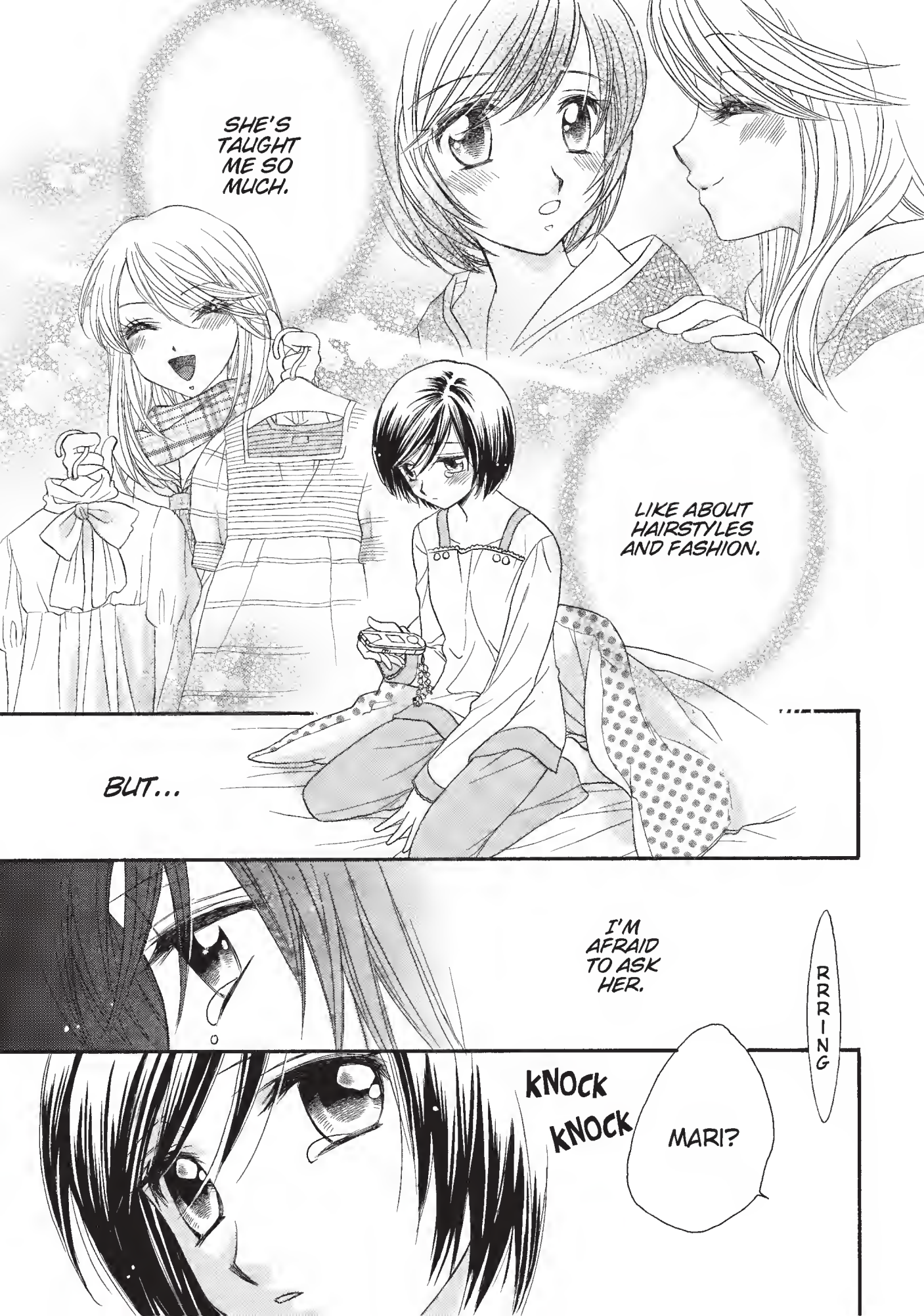

?
CONNECT-ING TO VOICE MAIL.
HMM?
IS SHE STILL ON THE SUB-WAY?
WHAT'S UP?
FADE
PLIP
INCOMING CALL
AKKO
GRIP
WHAT IN THE WORLD...
AM I DOING...?

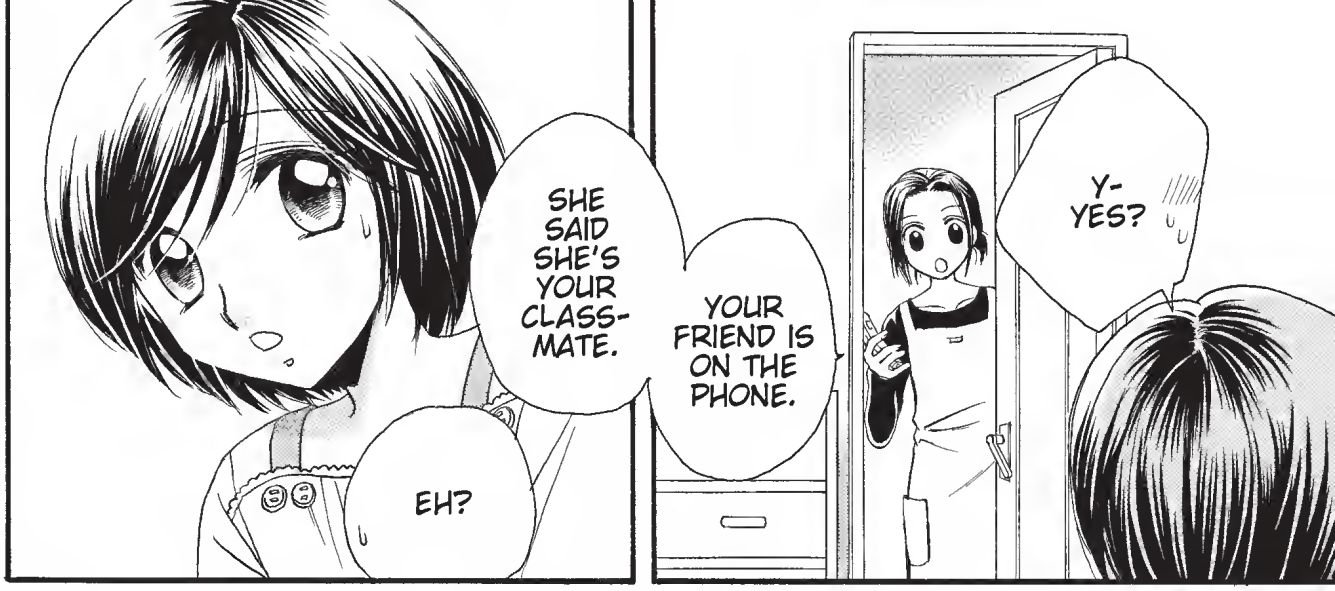
OH, IS KUMAKURA-SAN...
ABSENT TODAY?
I DON'T THINK SHE'S THE TYPE TO SKIP...
SHE'S PROBABLY OUT SICK.
HMM.
IS MARI-CHIN ALL RIGHT?
I HOPE SO.
I CAN'T GET HER ON HER CELL.
NO TEXTS FROM HER, EITHER.
WHAT? YOU DON'T KNOW?
REALLY?
.....
MAYBE SHE DROPPED IT IN THE TOILET?
OR SHE SLEPT IN.
HEY!
THAT'S MORE SOME-THING YOU WOULD DO.

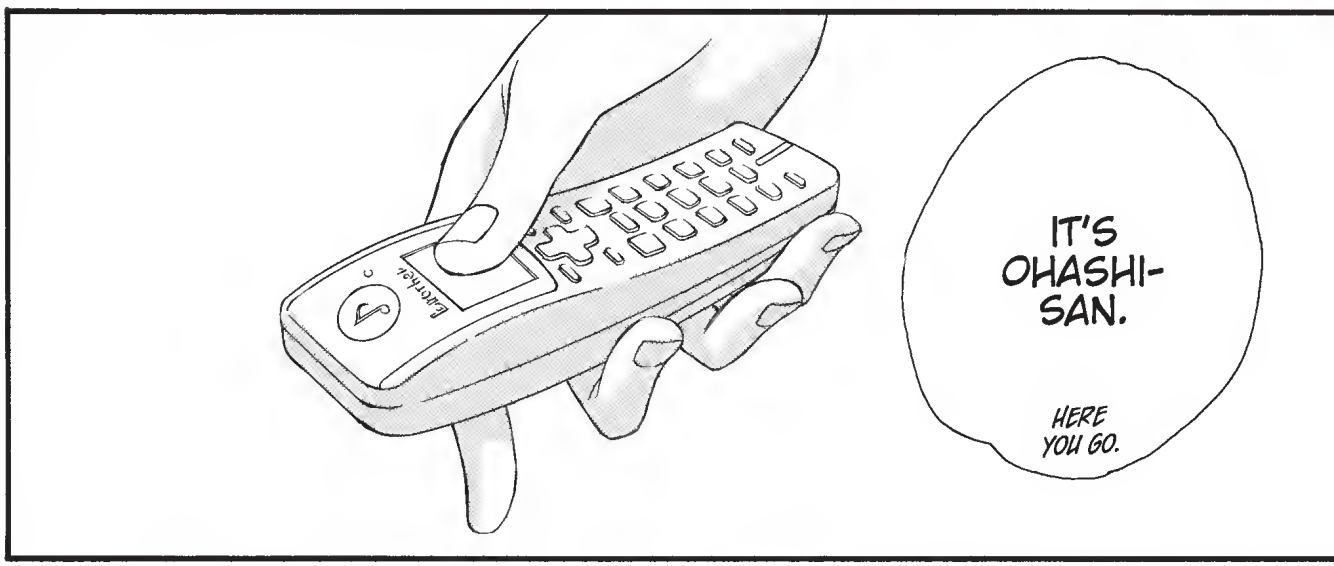
MARI? WOULD YOU LIKE TO EAT SOME-THING?
NO FEVER, BUT--
WELL...
SHOULD WE TAKE HER TO THE HOS-PITAL?
IS IT THE FLU? DOES SHE HAVE A FEVER?
SHE SUDDENLY FELT NAU-SEOUS.
IT'S STRANGE ...
NO THANKS ...
I'M NOT HUNGRY.
CLUNK
MAYBE YOU'RE DIZZY BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T EATEN ANYTHING.
I HOPE YOU'RE NOT ON A DIET AGAIN!
IT'S NOT HEALTHY!

.....
WHAT AM I DOING?
PLAYING SICK TO SKIP SCHOOL...
LIKE A LITTLE KID.
FLIP
W51CA
.....
I'M SO STUPID.

THROB
SO WHAT IF AKKO'S IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE?
IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS.
BUT EVEN AS I SAY THAT...
I DON'T KNOW WHY...
NNH...!
WHY AM I CRYING?
WHY?
WHY DOES MY HEART ACHE? WHY DOES IT HURT SO MUCH?
AKKO WOULD KNOW WHY...


SHE'S TAUGHT ME SO MUCH.
LIKE ABOUT HAIRSTYLES AND FASHION.
BUT...
I'M AFRAID TO ASK HER.
RRRING
KNOCK KNOCK
MARI?


Y-YES?
YOUR FRIEND IS ON THE PHONE.
SHE SAID SHE'S YOUR CLASS-MATE.
EH?


IT'S OHASHI-SAN.
HERE YOU GO.

UH...
"CLASS-MATE"? IS IT... A BOY?
OF COURSE NOT. MARI GOES TO AN ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL, REMEM-BER?
NEE-CHAN ISN'T EATING DINNER, RIGHT?
I'LL HAVE HERS!
FINISH YOUR PLATE FIRST!
OH NO...

カキ
FROZEN
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
.....
HELLO?
UH...
HUH?
AKKO?
MARIIII, I SOUNDED LIKE SUCH AN IDIOT!!
RANT
ギャイ
HUH?
ST-STUT-TER?
I HOPED I WOULDN'T HAVE TO TALK TO ONE OF YOUR PARENTS, BUT BAM! YOUR MOM ANSWERED THE PHONE! OH MY GAWD, I STUTTERED SO MUCH!!
"GAWD"?
?
?
ギャイ
RANT

I TRIED TO SAY...
"EXCUSE ME FOR CALLING THIS LATE, BUT I'M MARIKO-SAN'S CLASSMATE, OHASHI. MAY I PLEASE SPEAK TO MARIKO-SAN?"
HEY...
I DIDN'T STUTTER THIS TIME!!
A-AKKO, CALM DOWN.
BUT...
I'VE NEVER CALLED A FRIEND'S HOME PHONE BEFORE...
I EVEN WROTE A SCRIPT SO I WOULDN'T MESS UP!
KILL ME NOW!
YOUR MOM PROBABLY THINKS I'M AN AIRHEAD.
I'M SOOO EMBARRASSED!
HEH.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, AKKO.
AKKO... YOU'RE SO...

ACK!
OH YEAH.
MARI, I COULDN'T REACH YOUR ON YOUR CELL. WHAT HAPPENED?
!!
UH... UMM...
I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T NOTICE I'D BEEN ASLEEP ALL DAY!
PLUS, MY BATTERY WAS DEAD!
はわわ
STAMMER
EXCUSES, EXCUSES...
CLICK
PING
OOPS.
OH, WERE YOU SLEEPING? ARE YOU OKAY?
DID YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO BED?
I'LL HANG UP IF YOU--
!
AH...
DON'T ...
DON'T HANG UP!!

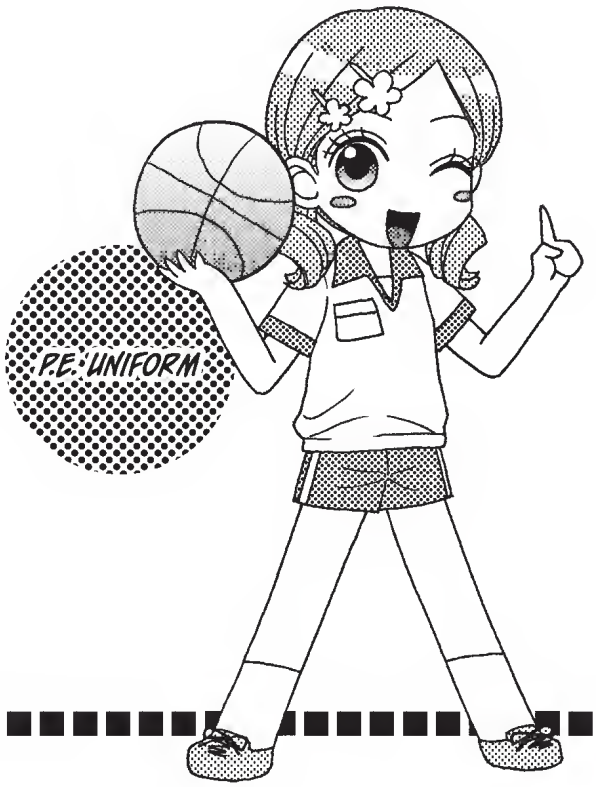
U-UMM...
I MEAN, DON'T WORRY. I'M FEELING BETTER ALREADY.
REALLY? THAT'S GOOD.
IS IT A COLD?
YOU LOOKED KIND OF PALE WHEN YOU LEFT LAST NIGHT.
OH, IS THAT WHY YOU CALLED ME?
WELL, YEAH! I WAS WORRIED!
GOSH... I'M SUCH AN IDIOT.
I TURNED OFF MY CELL TO AVOID HER, BUT...
BESIDES, IT FELT WEIRD...
NOT HAVING YOU BY MY SIDE, MARI.
20:18
MESSAGES
6
RETURN
OK
OPTIONS

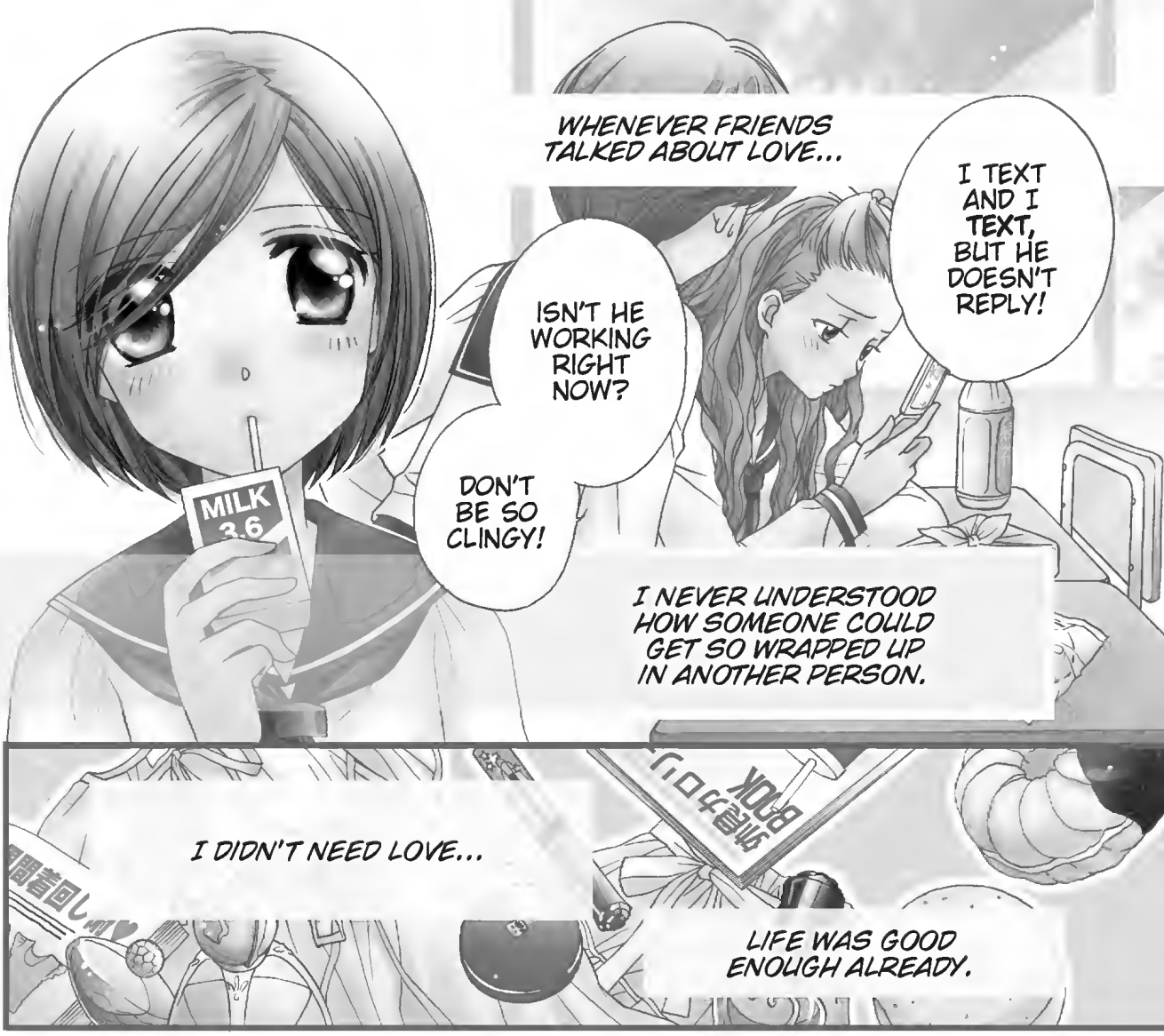
THE WHOLE TIME I WAS LONGING TO HEAR HER VOICE.
THINK YOU'LL BE UP FOR SCHOOL TOMOR-ROW?
YEAH...
I SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT.
I SHOULD'VE GONE TO SCHOOL TODAY.
I... WANT TO SEE YOU...
YEP.
OKAY...

ARE YOU DONE?
Y-YES.
OH! YOU'RE LOOKING BETTER.
SIT DOWN. I'LL WARM UP SOME LEFT-OVERS.
WAS YOUR FRIEND CHECKING ON YOU?
SHE SEEMED NICE.
ARE YOU TWO CLOSE?
YEAH...
WE'RE BEST FRIENDS.

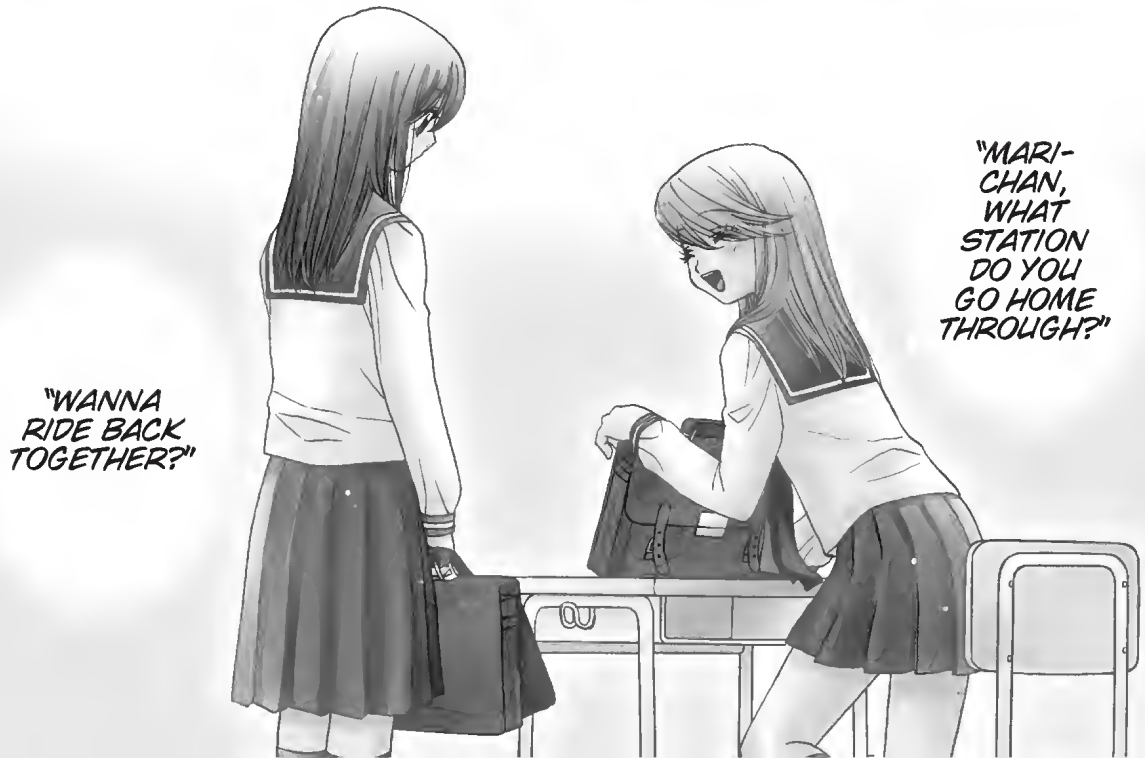
JR
JR EAST JAPAN
秋葉原駅
Akihabara Sta.
I'M NOT SURE WHEN...
I STARTED RUNNING UP THE STAIRS INSTEAD OF USING THE ESCALATOR.
I JUST WANTED TO GET TO THE PLAT-FORM FASTER.
SO I COULD SEE HER...
AKKO...

WELL, UH...
I THINK YOU NEED TO TUTOR ME AGAIN, MARI.
AHAHA! I THOUGHT SO.
HOW'D YOU DO?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT!
WE GOT THE RESULTS OF OUR MIDTERMS YESTERDAY.
TRAIN ARRIVING AT PLATFORM 5.
TRAIN'S HERE!
AND THEN...
I REALIZED...
I HAVE A CRUSH ON HER.

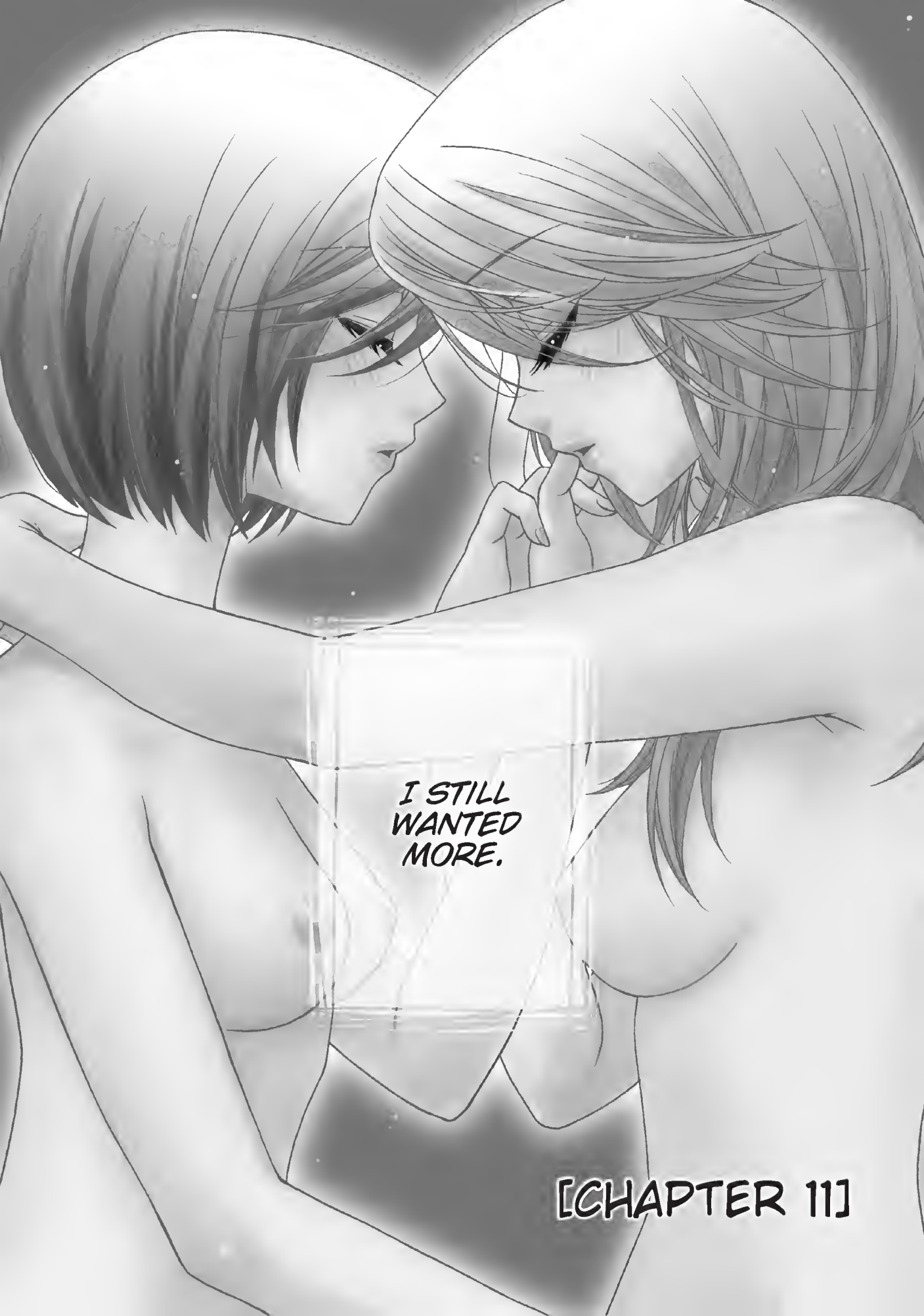

P.E. UNIFORM



EVER SINCE THAT DAY WE BECAME FRIENDS.

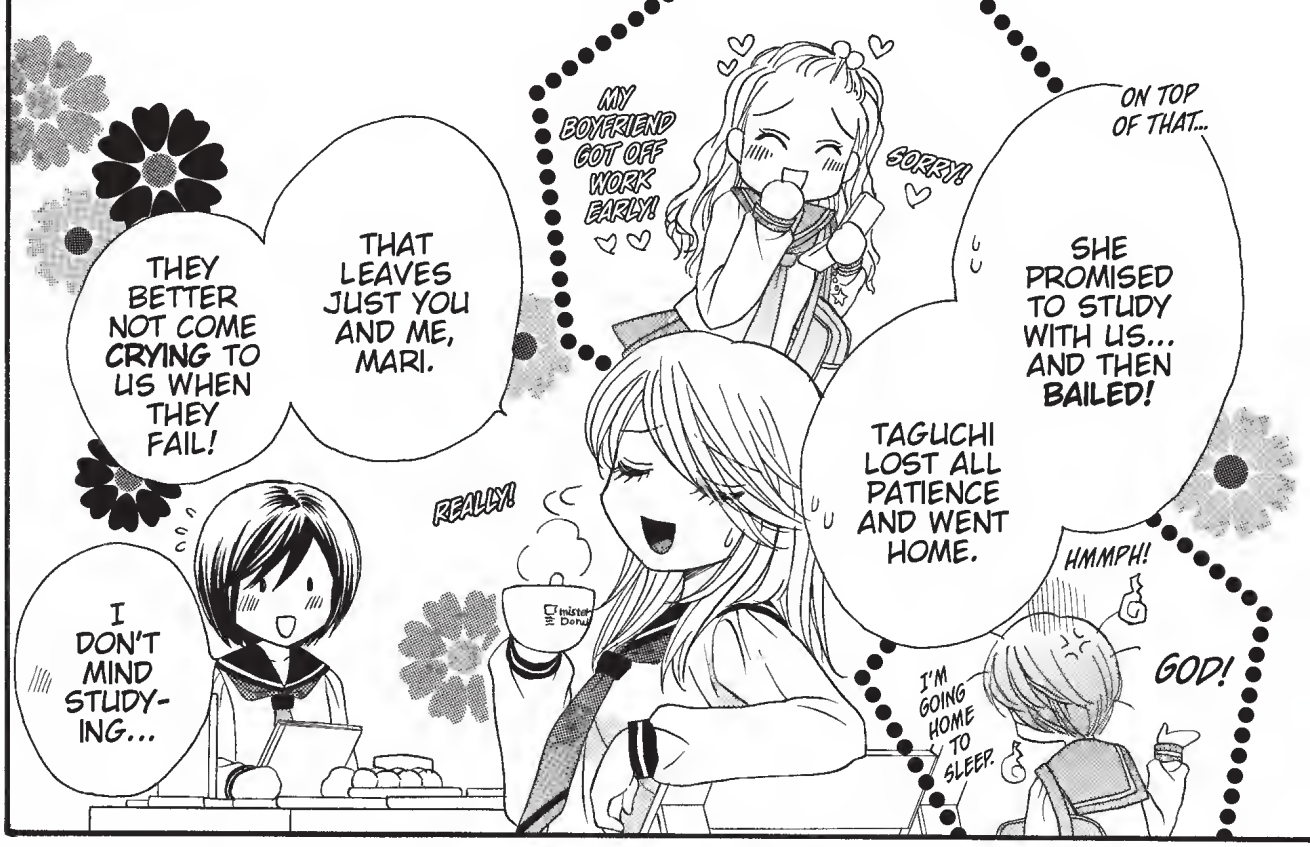


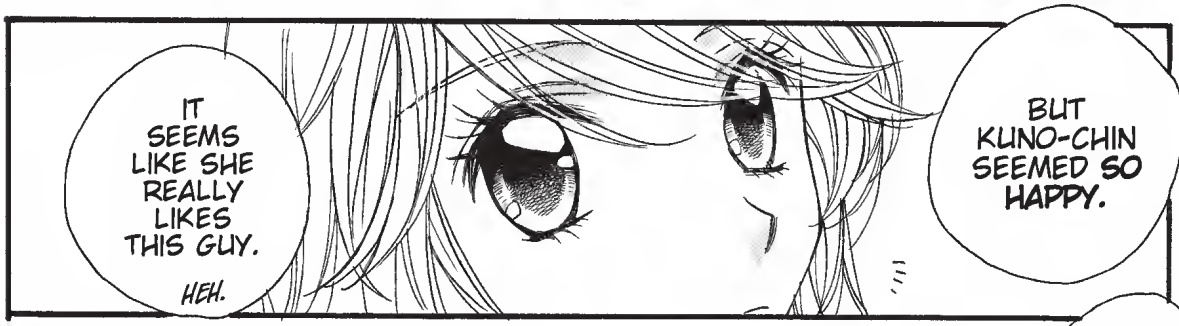
AWW... HE'S SO SWEET!
GOD, EVER SINCE SHE GOT A BOYFRIEND SHE'S BECOME REALLY ANNOYING.
YAY! I GOT A REPLY!
WELL, I'M JEALOUS.
JEEZ!
EH?
SIGH.
BA-THUMP
SHE HELPED ME DISCOVER MYSELF...
AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS...
BUT WHY...
OH, THAT'S TRUE.
SHE'S NOT EVEN WORRIED ABOUT MIDTERMS.
SIGH...
AND WHEN DID I START TO FEEL THIS WAY?
SURE!
ABSOLUTELY!
HEY, MARI, LET'S START HAVING STUDY SESSIONS AT MISTER DONUT AGAIN!
PRETTY PLEASE?
AND SO MUCH MORE.
EVEN THOUGH I WAS HAPPY AND HAVING FUN EVERY DAY...



[CHAPTER 11]

HEY, MARI...
ARE YOU THE TYPE TO KEEP YOUR BOYFRIEND ON A SHORT LEASH?
SHIVER
HUH?!
WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?!
WELL, KUNO-CHIN IS PRETTY DEMANDING, YOU KNOW?
SHE'S EITHER TEXTING HIM OR GETTING ALL MUSHY...
YEAH, KUNO-CHAN'S GOT IT PRETTY BAD.
I HAVE A BOYFRIEND! WOOHOO!
WE MET AT ONE OF SUGI-SAN'S GOKONS!
WHAT AN UN-EXPECTED QUESTION.


THAT LEAVES JUST YOU AND ME, MARI.
THEY BETTER NOT COME CRYING TO US WHEN THEY FAIL!
I DON'T MIND STUDY-ING...
REALLY!
MY BOYFRIEND GOT OFF WORK EARLY!
SORRY!
ON TOP OF THAT...
SHE PROMISED TO STUDY WITH US... AND THEN BAILED!
TAGUCHI LOST ALL PATIENCE AND WENT HOME.
HMMPH!
I'M GOING HOME TO SLEEP.
GOD!

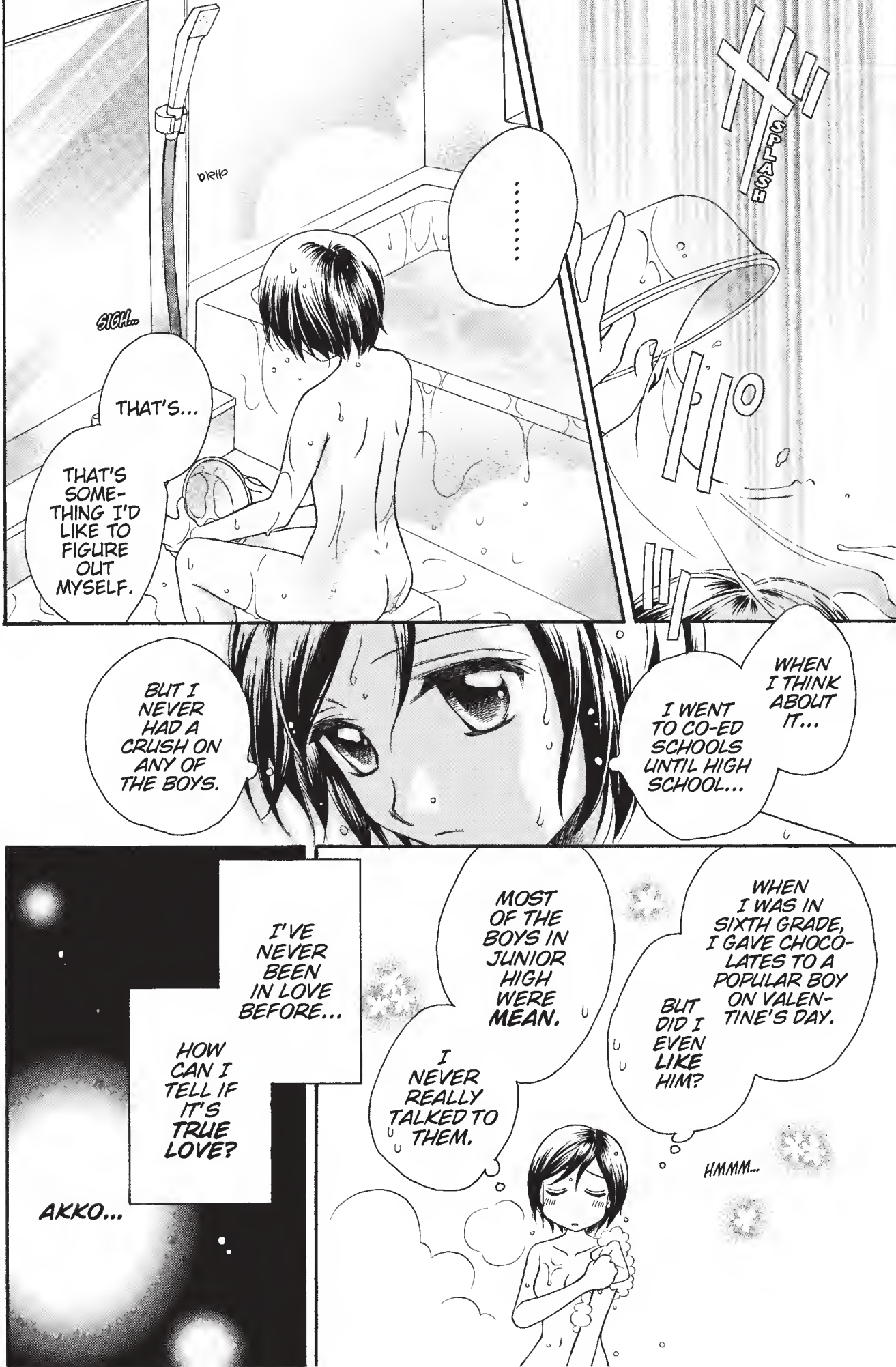

IT SEEMS LIKE SHE REALLY LIKES THIS GUY.
HEH.
BUT KUNO-CHIN SEEMED SO HAPPY.

ARE WE A COUPLE?
AKKO AND I HAVE DONE MOST OF THAT TOO...
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
SO, IF WE JUST GO TO DISNEY-LAND, THEN--
THEY TAKE LOTS OF PRINT CLUB PHOTOS, AND EVEN WENT TO DISNEYLAND TOGETHER.
WAIT...
SHE TEXTS AND SEES HIM EVERY DAY...
THEY HAVE MATCHING CELL PHONE STRAPS...

BUT IF A GUY ASKED ME AT THE VERY LAST MOMENT TO GO OUT WITH HIM WHEN I ALREADY HAD PLANS...
I WOULD BE PRETTY TICKED OFF.
REALLY?
mister Donut
WELL, YEAH! WOULDN'T YOU BE PISSED IF YOUR BOY-FRIEND TRIED TO TELL YOU WHAT TO DO?
EH?
SOME GUYS WANT TO SPEND EVERY FREE MOMENT TOGETHER!
.....
.....
mister Donut
IF IT WAS SOMEONE I REALLY LIKED... I WOULDN'T MIND.
ACTU-ALLY, I'D BE HAPPY...
IS THE COFFEE HOT?
MARI, YOU'RE RED AS A TO-MATO.
ARE YOU OKAY?
mister Donut

BUT THEN AGAIN, GIRLS CAN BE CLINGY TOO.
AND NO ONE LIKES TO BE SMOTHERED...
IS SHE...
I GUESS THAT'S ONE WAY TO FIND A PARTNER.
BUT...
BUT IF THEY BREAK UP, SHE CAN GO TO ANOTHER GOKON TO FIND A NEW GUY!
YEAH, IT'S PROBABLY 'CAUSE SHE'S SO OVER-BEARING.
AH... COME TO THINK OF IT, KUNO-CHIN SAID HER RELATION-SHIPS NEVER LAST.
AHAHA!
MYSTERY SOLVED!
SPEAK-ING... FROM EXPERI-ENCE?
SHARE

HOLDING OUT FOR TRUE LOVE?


SPLASH
DRIP
.....
SIGH...
THAT'S...
THAT'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO FIGURE OUT MYSELF.
BUT I NEVER HAD A CRUSH ON ANY OF THE BOYS.
I WENT TO CO-ED SCHOOLS UNTIL HIGH SCHOOL...
WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT...
MOST OF THE BOYS IN JUNIOR HIGH WERE MEAN.
I NEVER REALLY TALKED TO THEM.
WHEN I WAS IN SIXTH GRADE, I GAVE CHOCOLATES TO A POPULAR BOY ON VALENTINE'S DAY.
BUT DID I EVEN LIKE HIM?
HMMM...
I'VE NEVER BEEN IN LOVE BEFORE...
HOW CAN I TELL IF IT'S TRUE LOVE?
AKKO...

WHEN I THINK ABOUT AKKO, MY HEART GOES WILD...
AND I WANT TO SEE HER.
DRIP
WHEN WE'RE APART...
MY HEART ACHES.
I'M HAPPY WHEN I HEAR HER VOICE...
OR WHEN I LOOK INTO HER EYES.
I WANT TO BE WITH HER...
MORE AND MORE.
I WISH I COULD...
BE WITH HER ALL DAY LONG.
SLASH!
IS THIS LOVE?
OR JUST POSSES-SIVENESS?

WHAT DO I WANT...
FROM AKKO?
HAS THE SAME NAME AS ME! ♡
AND... MY BOY-FRIEND'S CAT...
I GUESS... SHE LIKES BEING TREATED LIKE A PET?
WHAT THE HECK IS SHE GOING ON ABOUT?
HIS NICK-NAME FOR ME IS "CHI"!
.....
KINDA WEIRD.
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE...
WHEN HE CALLS ME THAT, I START MEOWING! ♡
SQUEEEE!
HEE HEE, I SAID IT! AND THEN... AND THEN...
MORE OF KUNO-CHAN'S MUSHY LOVE STORIES.
CHI-CHAN
"KUNO"? WHAT A WEIRD NAME FOR A CAT!
NO, YOU IDIOT! THE CAT'S NAME IS CHI-CHAN.
AND MY FIRST NAME IS CHIHARU.
KRACK
OW!

AAUUGH!!
HE RUBS MY CHIN LIKE THIS~!
YOU'RE CREEPING ME OUT! STOP! TOUCHING! ME!
BUT...
I'VE NEVER DATED ANYONE, SO I DON'T KNOW.
I WON-DER...
UMM, IS THIS TRUE LOVE?
MEOW! MEOW!
EVEN AKKO...
TSK
MAYBE EVERYONE GETS LOVEY-DOVEY IN PRIVATE...
UHH...
I, UH...
...NEED TO PEE.
WHAT'S WRONG, MARI?
WHOA!
!!!!

OH. I'LL GO WITH YOU!
OH, UMM...
STAND
AH!
UH.
YOU STAY AND LISTEN TO KUNO-CHAN'S STORIES!
IT'S OKAY!
I'LL BE BACK!
AH! BUT I DON'T WANNA LISTEN TO KUNO-CHAN'S STORIES...
KYA! KYA!
WHA?!
FLUSH
OH GOSH...
WHY AM I BLUSHING ALL OF A SUDDEN?
I WAS DOING SO WELL TOO!
I...
HOPE ...
BLUSH
AKKO DIDN'T NOTICE ANY-THING.
JEEZ...
GULP!
PATTER
PATTER
AHH!
WHOA!
CLATTER
CLATTER

GOSH!
I'M SO SORRY--
OH, TAMA-MIN!
HEY!
MARI-CHIN!
KISS...
I'M SORRY FOR KNOCK-ING YOUR BOOKS ON THE FLOOR.
IT'S OKAY!
I'M SORRY FOR BUMPING INTO YOU.
NO, IT'S MY FAULT...
.....
FLIP
LOVE
.....?

ONEESAMA, I... I...
OH, MARIA, MY LITTLE TROUBLE-MAKER...
SLIP
AAAH! ONEE-SAMA!
UNLEASH OUR EVOLUTIONARY COSMIC POWERS!

UH...
RIGHT...
"MATURE AUDIENCES ONLY"...?
EVOLUTION-ARY GIRL MARIA.
CUTE ARTWORK, HUH? THIS ANIME IS SUPER POPULAR RIGHT NOW!
TRY THIS ONE TOO!
HM?
THIS? IT'S YURI.
DO YOU WANNA BORROW IT?
OH, THANKS MARI-CHIN! ♬
WHOA!
W-WAIT A MINUTE...
DOES THAT MEAN...?!
DO I WANT TO DO THOSE KINDS OF THINGS WITH AKKO?
DR-THUMP
ドキン
SISTERLY LOVE? THAT'S NOT WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE...
B-BUT AKKO ISN'T MY ONEE-SAMA...
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN ANY-WAY?
OH MY GOSH, WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?!
ANYONE WOULD GET FLUSTERED IF SHOWN AN ADULT MAGAZINE AT SCHOOL.

ONEESAMA
おねえさま
YOU KNOW, I WAS ASKED TO COSPLAY THIS CHARACTER.
OH, REALLY?
TEE HEE
I... I THINK YOU'D BE A GOOD FIT.
EHEHE. ♡ YOU THINK SO?
OH NO, I NEED TO GO TO THE CLUB ROOM!
BY THE WAY, DON'T TELL SUGI-SAN, OKAY?
SHE'D JUST SAY IT'S...
"WEIRD." ☆
I NEED TO TAILOR THE OUTFIT BEFORE SUMMER VACATION! ♬
SEE YOU LATER!!
SAY HI TO AKKO FOR ME!
WHAT CLUB DID TAMA-MIN JOIN...?
DRAMA CLUB?
.....
ANSWER: ANIME CLUB

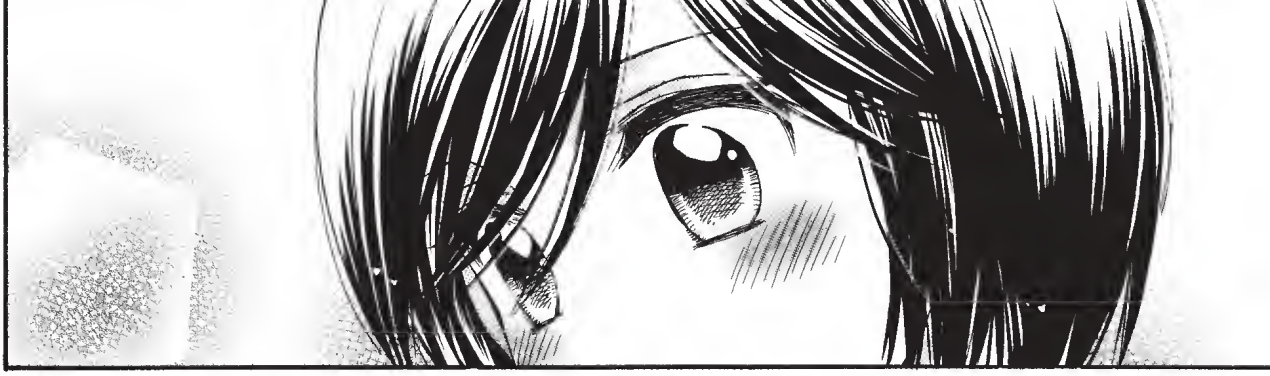
CHIRP CHIRP
I'M SOOO TIRED...
I DIDN'T SLEEP MUCH LAST NIGHT.
GA-CLACK
GA-CLACK
GA-CLACK
AND WHEN I FINALLY DID, I HAD A WEIRD DREAM.
TAMA-MIN, WHY'D YOU HAVE TO SHOW ME THAT?
GLOOM
I COULDN'T FACE AKKO AFER-WARDS.
GA-CLACK
GA-CLACK
.....
WHERE'S THE LINE BETWEEN TRUE LOVE AND FRIEND-SHIP?
EVEN IF IT IS TRUE LOVE...
THERE'S NOT MUCH I CAN DO...
IT'S HOPE-LESS.

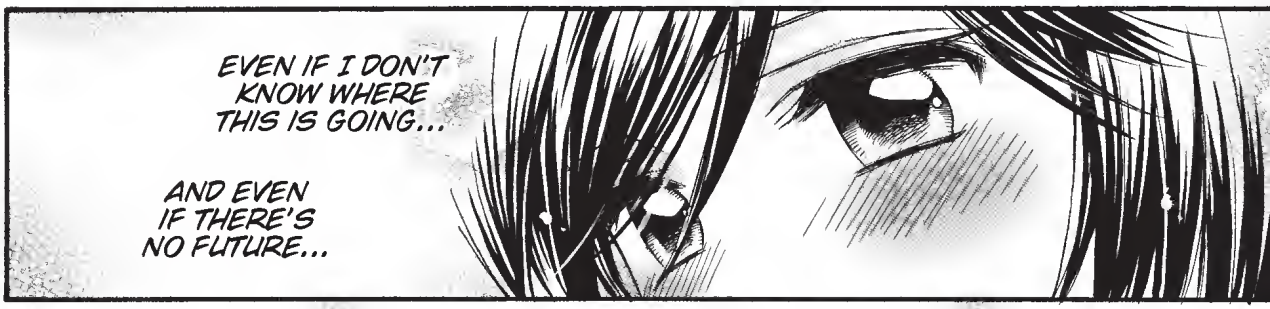
A POSSES-SIVE FRIEND.
SLIDE
JUMP!
THAT'S ALL I AM.
ALL I'LL EVER BE.
GA-CLACK
GA-CLACK
GA-CLACK
HEY...
WASN'T THAT YOUR STOP?
WE JUST PASSED AKIHABARA STATION.
GA-CLACK
GA-CLACK
HUH?
WHAT?!
NEXT STOP, KO-DENMA-CHO...
GLANCE
EH?
KO-DENMA-CHO, NEXT STOP.

R-RIGHT...
THANK YOU.
WHY DON'T YOU GET OFF AT THE NEXT STATION AND TURN BACK?
AH...!
CURRENT LOCATION
AKIHABARA
ODENMA-CHO
NINGYO-CHO
UMM...
I'VE SEEN HIM BE-FORE...
HM?
WE'RE ON THE SAME TRAIN SOME-TIMES.
YOU NEVER NOTICED, DID YOU, KUMA-KURA?
NO, SORRY.
LONG TIME NO SEE!
HEH.
DO YOU REMEMBER ME?

I CHANGE TRAINS AT KAYABA-CHO.
WILL YOU MAKE IT TO SCHOOL ON TIME?
YEAH...
I'LL BE FINE AS LONG AS I CATCH THE NEXT TRAIN.
KODENMA-CHO. KODENMA-CHO.
YOU BETTER HURRY THEN!
RIGHT!
UM...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
NO PROBLEM!
SEE YA!
.....

BUT... THAT BOY...
"SORRY!! I MISSED MY STOP. GO AHEAD WITHOUT ME."
I SHOULD TEXT AKKO.
CLICK CLICK
WHO IS HE?
I THINK I'VE MET HIM BEFORE, BUT...
OH WELL.
AH, AKKO TEXTED ME BACK.
AKKO
WTH?! NO WAY! RUN FAST!! ☆ DON'T WORRY I'LL WAIT FOR U MARI~!





I NEED TO BE TRUE TO MYSELF...

AND RUN STRAIGHT TO YOU.

DESIGNATED WINTER COAT.

GIRL FRIENDS — ガールフレンズ —

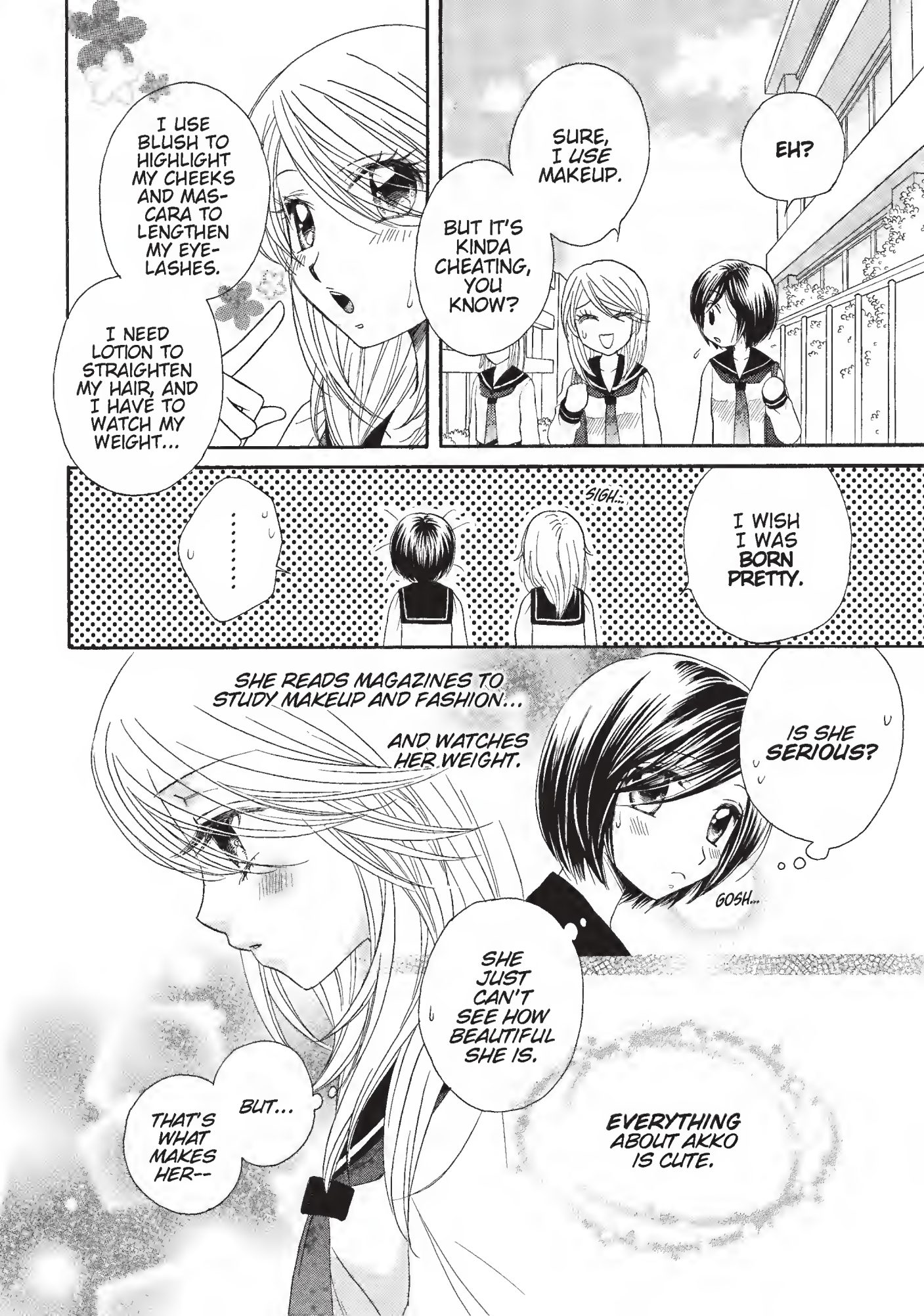
I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS LOVE OR NOT.
BUT IT'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING I'VE NEVER FELT BEFORE.
I HAVE A CRUSH ON ONE OF MY GIRL FRIENDS, BUT...
BUT...
I'M...

[CHAPTER 12]

BLURT
OH...
SHE'S CUTE, THAT'S ALL...
HM...?
WHAT'S UP?
?
MARI-CHIN, WHY ARE YOU STARING AT AKKO?
URK!
I MEAN--
.....
.....
.....
OH GOSH, I SOUND LIKE AN IDIOT!
UM!
HER SKIN LOOKS SO SOFT...
IT'S JUST...
DID I SAY THAT OUT LOUD?!
SO...
ERR...
I'M JUST MAKING THINGS WORSE!

YOU'RE SOOOO RIGHT! AKKO HAS A GREAT COMPLEXION!
I GET SUPER JEALOUS SOME-TIMES.
YUP!
TELL US!
YOU ALMOST NEVER GET ZITS!
WHAT'S YOUR SECRET?
SHINE
YEAH.
HEH.
I HAVE A SPECIAL ROUTINE FOR WASH-ING MY FACE.
EH? BUT... BUT I DO THAT TOO. WHAT'S YOUR SECRET?!
SHINE
EVERY NIGHT AND MORNING, I WASH MY FACE...
AND FOR ZITS, I USE BODY SHOP'S TEA TREE.
WHAT? SERI-OUSLY? TEA TREE?!
AND WHEN YOU DO GET ZITS, YOU CAN JUST COVER THEM UP.
MAYBE I'LL PICK UP SOME OF THAT STUFF AFTER SCHOOL. WANNA COME, KUNO?
I DUNNO, MY BOYFRIEND MIGHT HAVE A HEART ATTACK IF I GOT ANY PRETTIER.
EWW! SHE'S GETTING MUSHY AGAIN!
OH.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT...
WE'RE FRIENDS, SO IT'S NOT WEIRD TO SAY SHE'S CUTE.
PHEW...
THAT WAS CLOSE.

I'M GLAD...
I CAN BE CLOSE TO HER LIKE THIS.
IF I WERE A BOY...
I'D PROBABLY HAVE MESSY HAIR...
AND STILL WEAR WEIRD CLOTHES.
NEGATIVE THOUGHTS...
LIKE THIS?
AND BE TOO MUCH OF A WIMP TO TALK TO AKKO.
AND OF COURSE...
I WOULD'VE NEVER MET HER IN THE FIRST PLACE.
SO THINGS... COULD BE WORSE.
ACTUALLY, I HAVE MIXED FEELINGS.


EH?
SURE, I USE MAKEUP.
BUT IT'S KINDA CHEATING, YOU KNOW?
I USE BLUSH TO HIGHLIGHT MY CHEEKS AND MASCARA TO LENGTHEN MY EYELASHES.
I NEED LOTION TO STRAIGHTEN MY HAIR, AND I HAVE TO WATCH MY WEIGHT...
.....
SIGH...
I WISH I WAS BORN PRETTY.
SHE READS MAGAZINES TO STUDY MAKEUP AND FASHION...
AND WATCHES HER WEIGHT.
IS SHE SERIOUS?
GOSH...
SHE JUST CAN'T SEE HOW BEAUTIFUL SHE IS.
BUT...
THAT'S WHAT MAKES HER--
EVERYTHING ABOUT AKKO IS CUTE.

M-MAYBE I SHOULD START USING MAKEUP, TOO.
SIGH...
EH?
IT MIGHT HELP.
UGH! I NEED TO STRAIGHTEN MY HAIR AGAIN!
.....
I HATE THIS MUGGY WEATHER.
I'M...
COMPARED TO HER...
NO MAKEUP
WELL...
YOU CAN IF YOU WANT, BUT, MARI--
EH?
BUT WHAT?
CUZ.
IF YOU START USING MAKEUP WHILE YOU'RE YOUNG, YOU'LL AGE FASTER!
AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT MOM TOLD ME.
GRR...
COLLEGE STUDENT
BUT WE'RE GOING TO GROW OLD SOON ANYWAY.
EXACTLY! SO I DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT TOO MUCH.
AH HA HA!
SHE LOOKED LIKE A MUMMY!
WHILE SHE HAD A FACIAL MASK ON!
SNOTTY LITTLE BRAT.
OFFICE WORKER
OFFICE WORKER

MARI, EVEN WHEN I GROW REALLY OLD...
AND GET ALL WIRNKLY...
YOU'LL STILL LOVE ME, RIGHT?
CHOK
BA-THUMP
STILL LOVE HER...?
I...
OF COURSE I WILL!
BUT SERIOUSLY, YOU DON'T NEED MAKE-UP! YOU HAVE REALLY PRETTY SKIN, MARI.
YOU DON'T USE SKIN TONER, DO YOU?
TOUCH
BA-THUMP

GETTING HOT.
MY CHEEKS ARE...
REALLY?
YOUR SKIN IS SO SMOOTH...
AND YOU NEVER GET ZITS!
NEAT!
NO, I DON'T!
AKKO'S HAND...
BA-THUMP
YOUR EYES ARE BIG TOO. A LITTLE BIT OF EYELINER WOULD LOOK REALLY PRETTY.
BA-THUMP
MY WHOLE BODY IS BURN-ING...
BA-THUMP
HUFF
YOU'RE SO RED!
YOUR CHEEKS ARE REALLY WARM.
HUFF
HUH?
MARI, YOU BURN EASILY, DON'T YOU?
BUT FIRST, YOU NEED SUN-BLOCK.

I'M HAPPY WITH WHAT I HAVE.
OKAY, HOW ABOUT THIS SUN-DAY?
WE CAN DO IT AT YOUR HOUSE AFTER WE GO SHOPPING.
REALLY? YAY!
PLEASE?
REALLY?
WHAT?!
OHH, CAN I GIVE YOU A MAKE-OVER?!
I DON'T NEED ANY-THING MORE.
IF WE COULD STAY LIKE THIS FOR-EVER, I'D BE HAPPY.
JUST BE-CAUSE I'M IN LOVE...
DOESN'T MEAN I HAVE TO ACT DIFFER-RENT.

ARE YOU SURE?
IT'LL BE FINE!
WON'T IT CLASH WITH THE STRAW-BERRY ONE WE JUST TRIED?
OH, TRY THIS ONE!
THE POM-EGRANATE SMELL IS REALLY NICE!
OKAY, FINE. I'LL TRY IT.
TSK TSK
RUB RUB
I NEED SOME NEW BODY BUTTER...
BUT IT'S SO HARD TO CHOOSE!
SNIFF SNIFF
VANILLA'S NICE TOO...
HEY, LADIES!
HER HANDS ARE SO DELI-CATE...

AKKO! MARI-CHIN!!
♬
OH, KUNO-CHIN!!
FANCY MEET-ING YOU HERE!
ARE YOU TWO SHOPPING?
YEP! ♬ AND YOU?
EHEE. ♡ I'M...
ON A DATE WITH MY HONEY-BUNCH! ♡
OH!!
I'LL INTRO-DUCE HIM TO YOU! ♡
HONEY, OVER HERE! ♡
EKK
THE CAT LOVER?

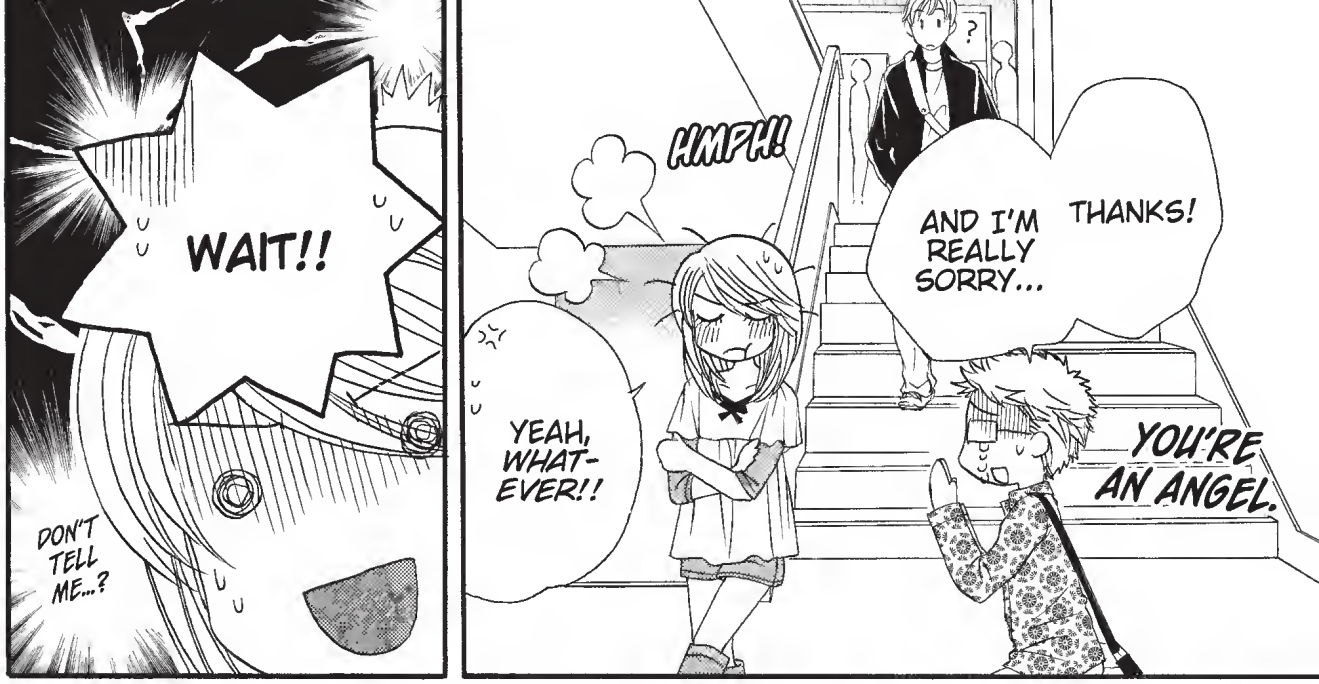
HAHAHA!
HERE'S MY PRINCE CHARMING!
HI THERE!
UH, HI.
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.
SO, THIS IS THE GUY...
!?!?!
HM?
DO YOU TWO KNOW EACH OTHER?
?
AKKO, WHAT'S WRONG?

UHMM, KUNO...
CAN I BORROW YOUR BOY-FRIEND FOR A SEC?
RIGHT, WE NEED TO... UHH--
YOU NEED TO WHAT?!
IT WILL ONLY TAKE A SEC-OND...
DRAG ずる
DRAG ずる
BUT, MY PRINCE...
A-AKKO...?
WHERE'D THEY GO?
OH! MY! GOD!
.....

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
WAIT, I'M CONFUSED TOO!!
SO YOU'RE CHIHARU'S FRIEND?
SHE SAID YOU GUYS MET AT A GOKON SET UP BY SUGI-SAN...
OH!!
THAT BITCH...
PROBABLY INVITED THE SAME GROUP OF GUYS FROM LAST SUMMER TO KUNO-CHIN'S GOKON!
OH, IS THAT A PROBLEM?
I WON'T! AND DON'T YOU SQUEAL EITHER!
I WISH I COULD ERASE THAT NIGHT COMPLETELY!
OH GAWD!
GRAB
WHOA!
PLEASE!!
PLEASE DON'T TELL CHIHARU ABOUT THAT NIGHT!!

SHIT
HM? WHERE AM I?
YAWN
RIGHT, I DRANK TOO MUCH LAST NIGHT AND ENDED UP IN A HOTEL...
BUT THE GUY...
OH MAN! I GOT A CUTE GIRL IN BED...
GET UP, BOY!! GET UP!
BUT AFTER DRINKING SO MUCH, I...
COULDN'T GET IT UP...!!
HUH?!
HUH?!
SOB SOB
HUH...?

HUH?
YOU'VE KEPT IT A SECRET THIS WHOLE TIME?
IT'S THE WORST OF BOTH WORLDS...
GOD! THANKS TO YOU, I'M STILL A VIRGIN, BUT EVERY-ONE THINKS OTHER-WISE!
FINE, WHAT-EVER!
HE'S PATHETIC...
PLEASE!!
MY REP-UTATION AS A MAN IS ON THE LINE!!
BEG
BEG
BEG
PLEASE DON'T TELL HER!
WELL, YEAH. THINK ABOUT IT...
IF I TOLD SUGI-SAN, SHE'D TELL HER EX-BOYFRIEND.
THEN HE'D TELL ALL HIS FRIENDS AND THEY'D NEVER LET YOU FOR-GET IT...
RIGHT?
EX
AAAAHHHH!
EX
URK...
I WASN'T EVEN REALLY INTO HIM.
BUT MY PRIDE AS A WOMAN IS AT STAKE TOO.
HE SAW ME NAKED AND WASN'T TURNED ON...
I'D DIE BEFORE I TOLD ANYONE ABOUT THAT.
NO WAY IN HELL!


WAIT!!
DON'T TELL ME...?
HMPH!
YEAH, WHATEVER!!
AND I'M REALLY SORRY...
THANKS!
YOU'RE AN ANGEL.

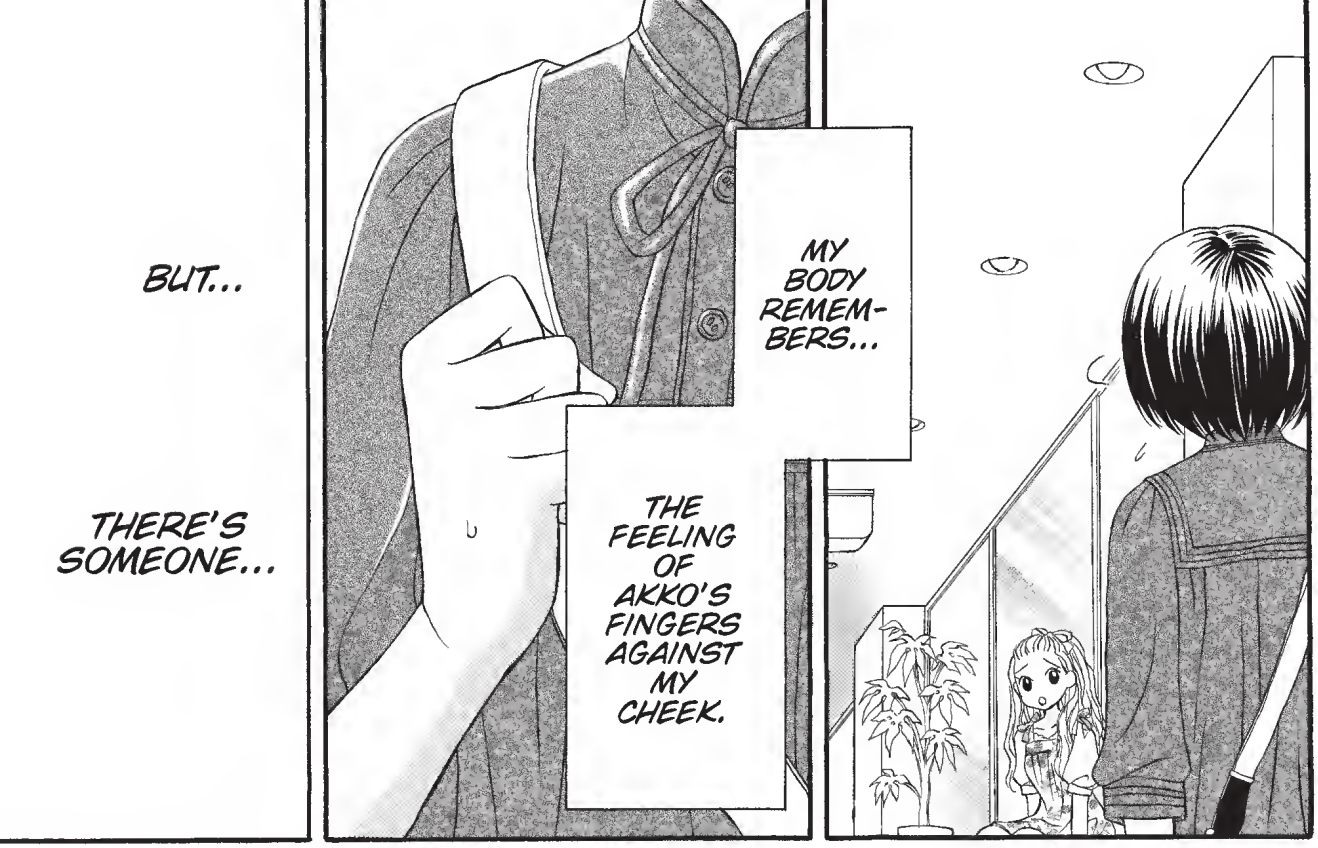
I'LL TELL HER EVERYTHING IF YOU ARE!
YOU BASTARD! IF YOU HURT MY FRIEND, I SWEAR I'LL--!
ARE YOU JUST TRYING TO GET KUNO-CHIN INTO BED, LIKE YOU DID WITH ME?!
I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING TO HER!
NO, I'M NOT! SWEAR TO GOD!
I DON'T...
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE HER.
I... I'M REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT CHIHARU...
PLEASE...

.....
SIGH...
I LIKE GIRLS WHO LOVE TO CUDDLE, AND SHE'S TOTALLY MY TYPE. ♡
BUT IT'S KIND OF ADORABLE. ♡
SHE GETS SO JEALOUS!
THEY'RE BOTH MUSHY...
ENOUGH ALREADY!
STOP WITH THE LOVEY-DOVEY CRAP.
MEANWHILE...
どよーん GLOOOM
MARICHIN...
I GET IT...
EH?
WHAT?
HE PROBABLY FELL IN LOVE WITH AKKO AT FIRST SIGHT...
AND THEN...
THEY ELOPED.
I THINK THAT'S PRETTY UNLIKELY.
LOOK...
I'LL GO FIND THEM, OKAY?

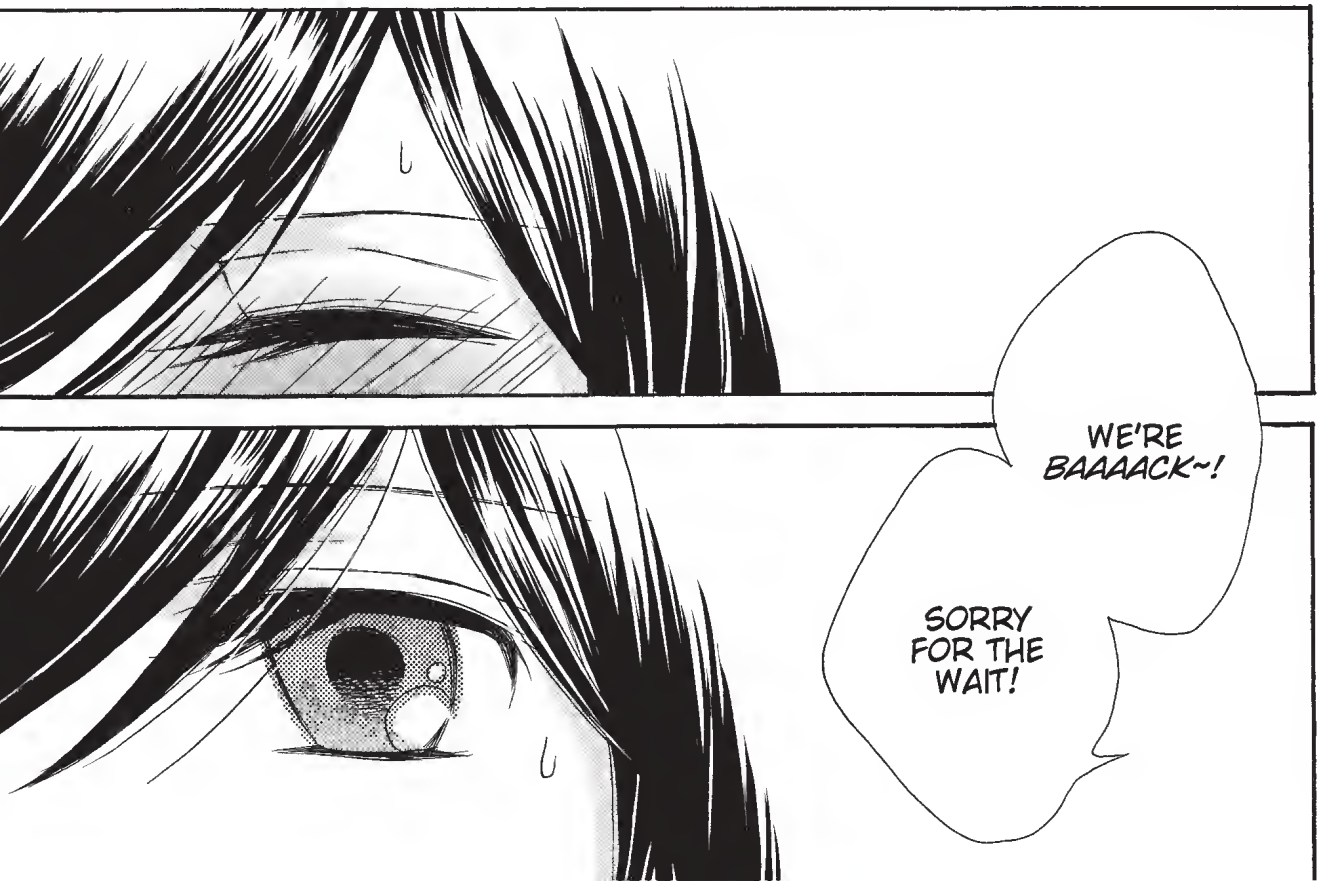
WHEN I SAW HER WITH THAT GUY,
THE FEELINGS I'D BEEN HOLDING
BACK ALL CAME RUSHING FORWARD.

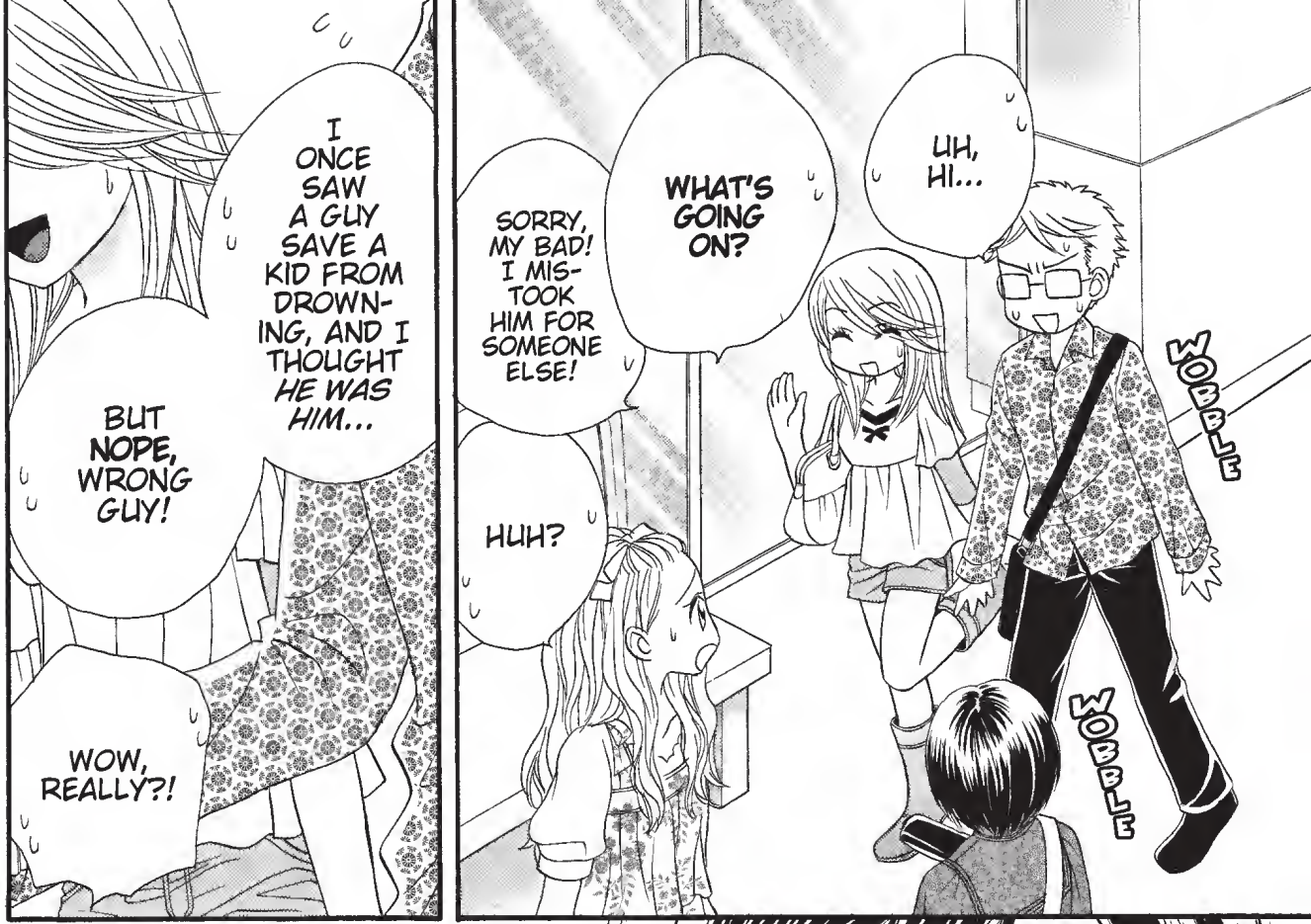
SUMMER
UNIFORM

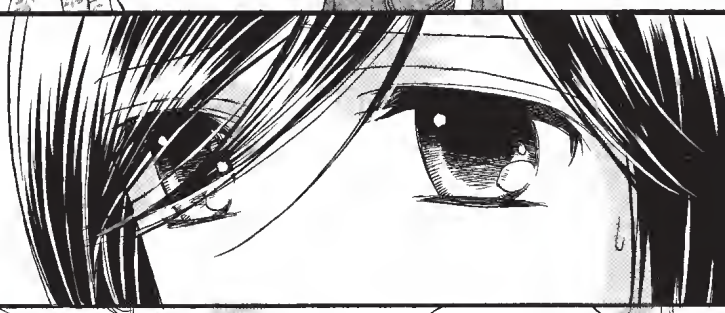
GIRL FRIENDS — ガールフレンズ —



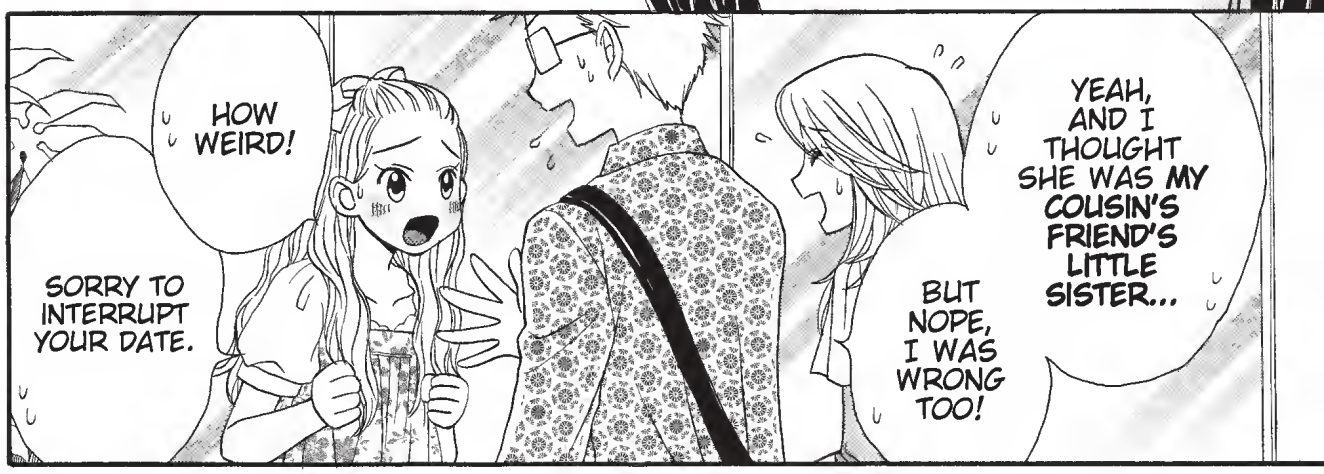
SOMEONE WHO'S FELT **ALL OF HER.**





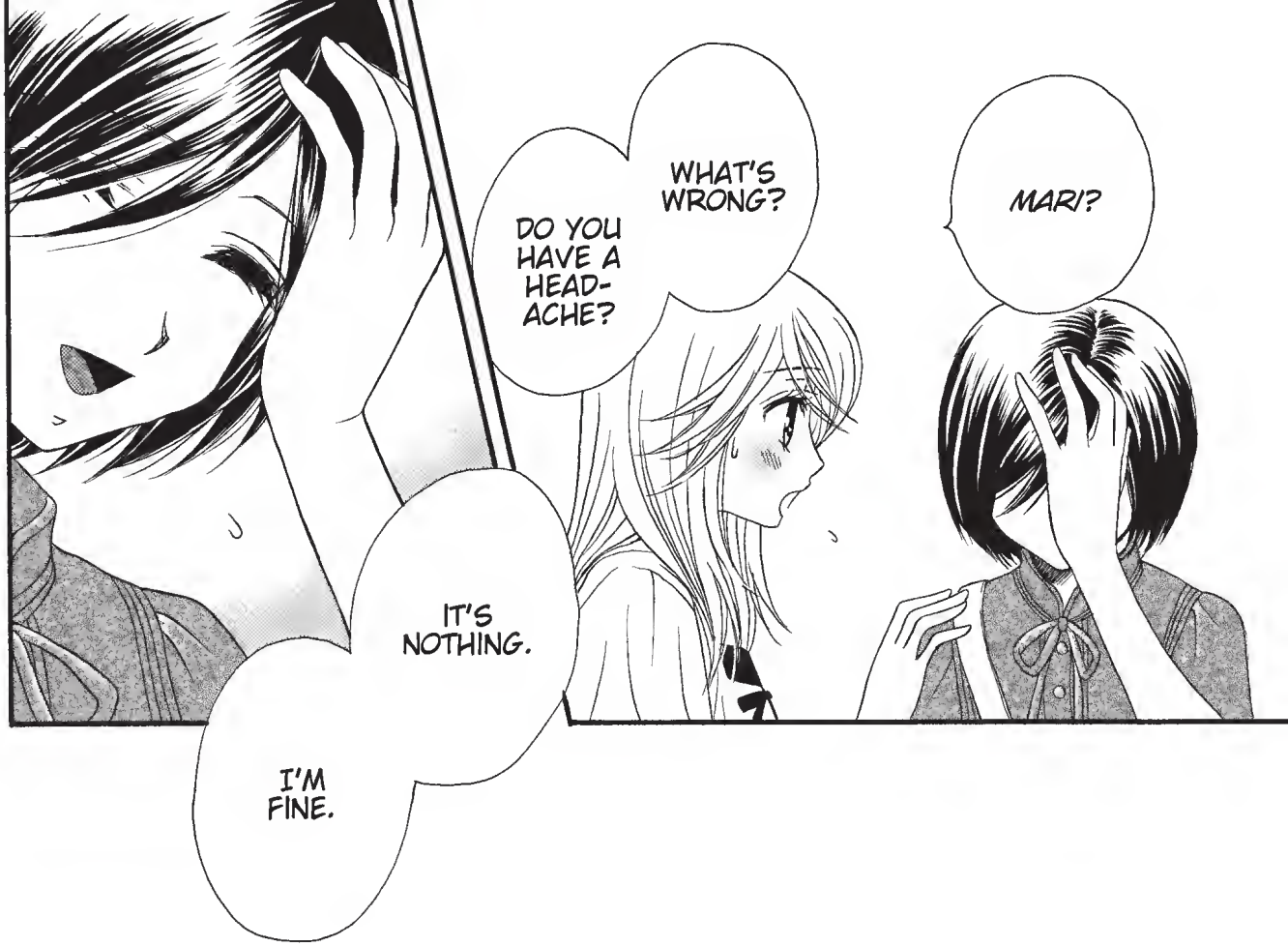


I CAN'T BREATHE...



GO AWAY.

GET AWAY FROM AKKO NOW.



MY THROAT FELT LIKE IT WAS GOING TO CLOSE UP.

[CHAPTER 13]

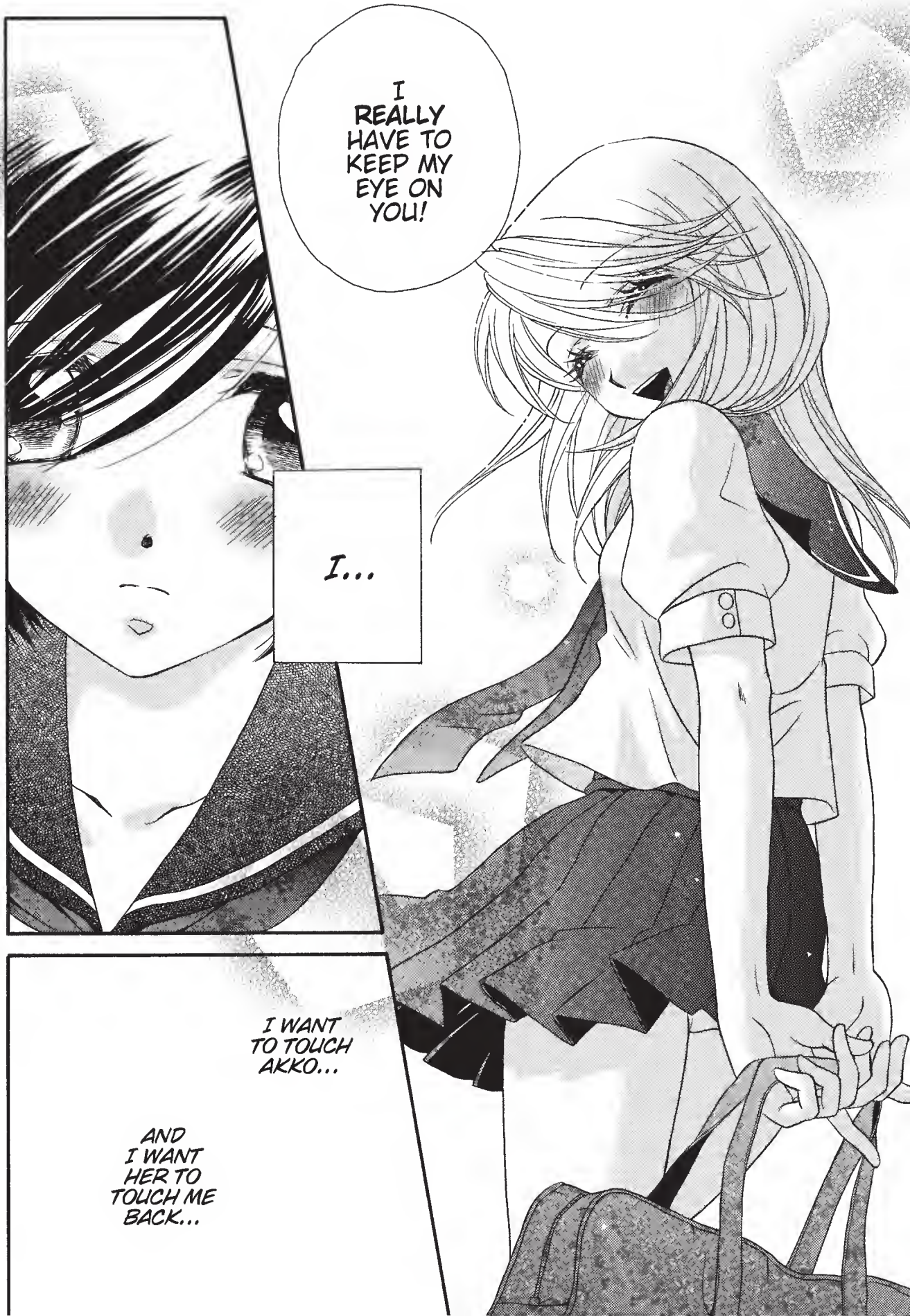
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
I DIDN'T EVEN MAKE IT TO BED...
I BETTER GET READY.

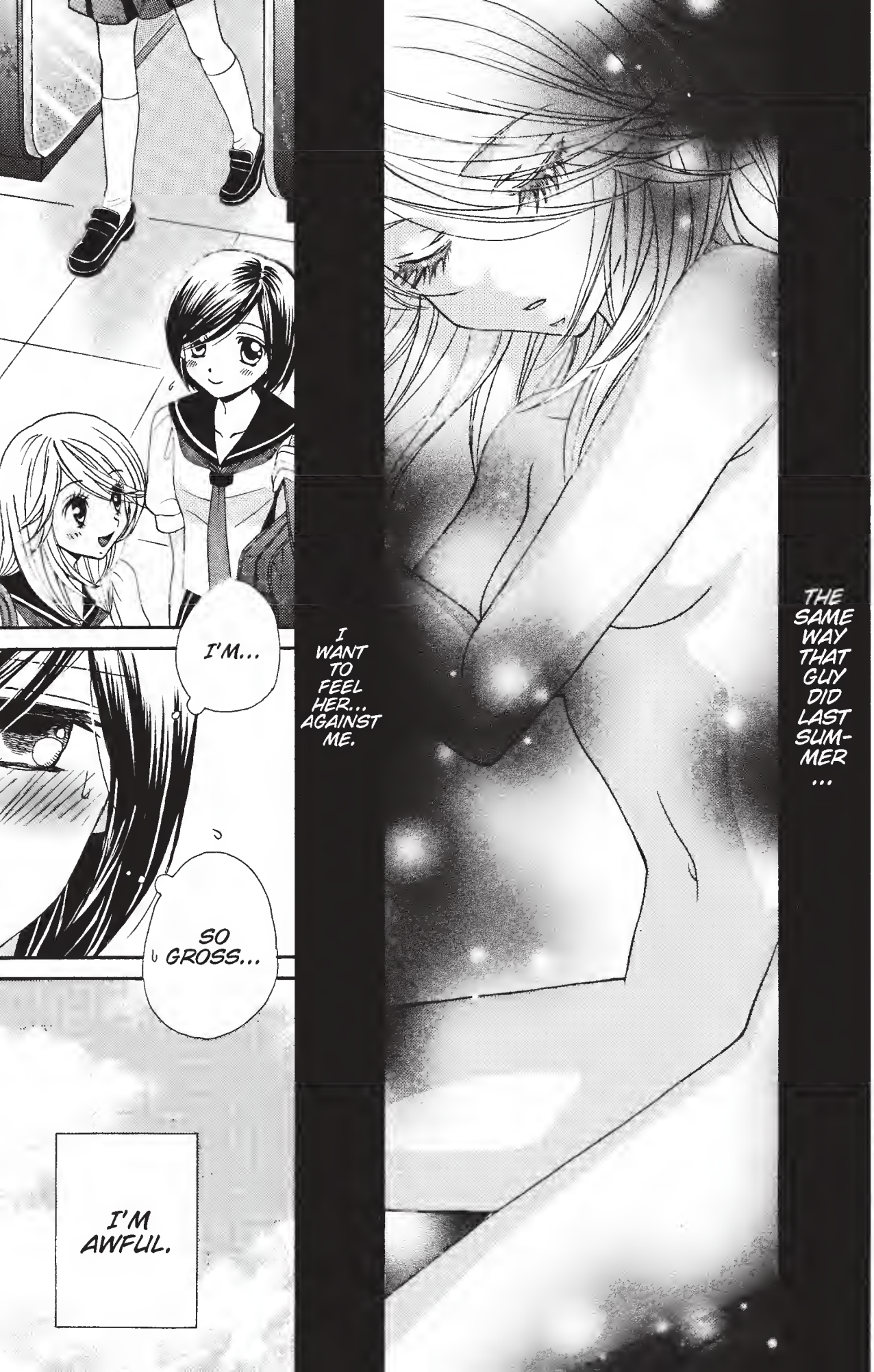
I THOUGHT ABOUT IT ALL NIGHT...
I'M IN LOVE WITH MY BEST FRIEND.
WHY DO I WANT MORE SO BADLY?
MORNING, MARI! ♫
GOOD MORNING, AKKO. SHORT SLEEVES ALREADY?
YEAH. YOU KNOW ME!

GA-CLACK
AREN'T YOU HOT, MARI? YOU SHOULD TAKE YOUR SWEATER OFF!
OH, YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
LOVERS MIGHT BREAK UP...
BUT FRIENDS CAN BE TOGETHER FOREVER.
GA-CLACK
GA-CLACK
BREATHE
EVEN WHEN WE BECOME ADULTS ...
AND MARRY GUYS AND HAVE KIDS, WE CAN STILL BE TO-GETHER.
I PUT A LITTLE BIT ON MY ELBOWS! ♬
YEAH. SINCE I'M IN MY SUMMER UNIFORM...
OH, THAT'S THE STUFF YOU BOUGHT YESTERDAY, RIGHT?
REALLY? I PUT SOME PEACH BUTTER ON, SO MAYBE THAT'S WHY.
YOU SMELL NICE, AKKO.
IS IT TOO STRONG?
NOPE.
GA-CLACK
GA-CLACK

BUT...
THAT'S AS CLOSE AS I'LL GET...
FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT.
GR-CLACK
HER SKIN IS SO WHITE...
GR-CLACK
GR-CLACK
GR-CLACK
GR-CLACK

H-HEY!!
PAT
AKKO?
WHAT --?
MARI, BE CAREFUL...
EH?
THE SUMMER SKIRTS ARE LIGHTER, SO YOU'VE GOTTA BE CAREFUL GOING UP STAIRS.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO, HONEST!
OH...
DID EVERYONE SEE?
JUST DON'T WEAR SHORT SKIRTS!
SHE...
SHE...
TOUCH-ED MY THIGH.
BUT...
JEEZ, MARI...

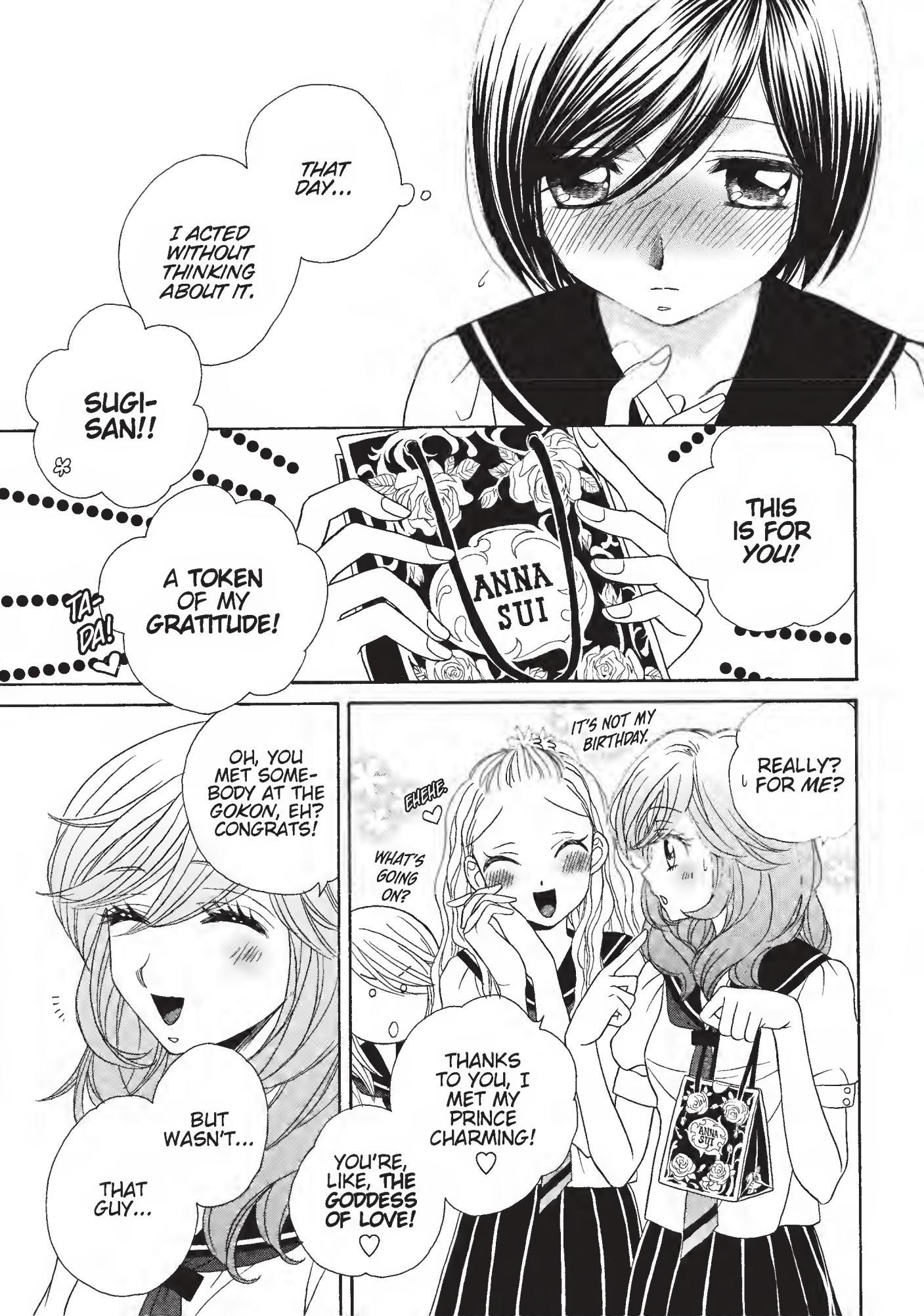

I REALLY HAVE TO KEEP MY EYE ON YOU!
I...
I WANT TO TOUCH AKKO...
AND I WANT HER TO TOUCH ME BACK...

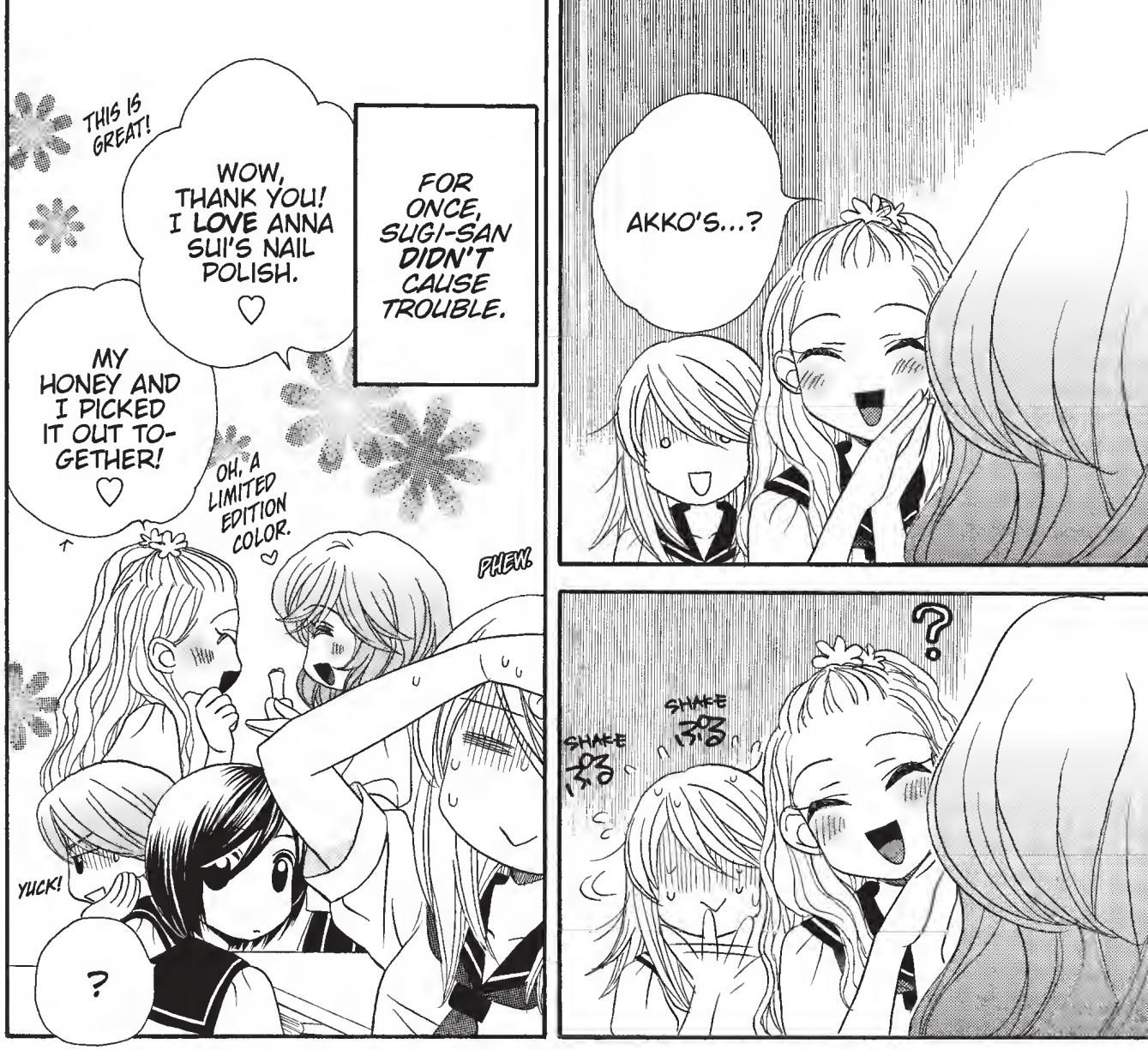

THE SAME WAY THAT GUY DID LAST SUM-MER ...
I WANT TO FEEL HER... AGAINST ME.
I'M...
SO GROSS...
I'M AWFUL.

CLATTER
CLATTER
2-1
HMM, THIS ROOM...
SNIFF SNIFF
SMELLS LIKE HAWAII.
OH, HI, SUGI-SAN!
STAND
AKKO, MARI-CHIN, LONG TIME NO SEE!
HOW ARE YOU?
HEY, SUGI-SAN!
WHAT IS THAT SMELL? PERFUME?
NOPE! BODY BUTTER.
I'M USING MANGO.
AND I'M TRYING COCONUT!
SO THAT'S WHY IT SMELLS LIKE A TROPICAL ISLAND IN HERE.
YOU GUYS CARRY THAT BIG CONTAINER AROUND?
THOSE GIRLS TOO...
THE SCENTS GET REALLY STRONG DURING BREAKS.
AKKO STARTED THIS LITTLE FAD...
HEE
HEE!

.....
WE EXPOSE MORE SKIN IN THE SUMMER, AND THE LAST THING I WANT IS DRY ELBOWS.
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN! YOU SHOULDN'T WEAR OPEN SANDALS IF YOUR HEELS ARE DRY AND FLAKY.
?
MARI, USE THIS.
HUH?
♫ I'M PUTTING SOME ON MY KNEES AND HEELS TOO.
RUB RUB
SLIP
YOUR LIPS LOOK A LITTLE CHAPPED.
HERE!
♫ USE MY LIP BALM.

IT GETS REALLY NOISY DURING BREAKS AT AN ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL...
YEAH, SPF IS IMPORTANT. THEY SAY UV RAYS ARE STRONGEST DURING SPRING.
OH, THAT IS A GOOD ONE! IT HAS A HIGH SPF.
WHAT?! I THOUGHT UV RAYS WERE STRONGEST IN THE SUMMER?
I USE THAT SAME KIND.
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
MOST LIP BALMS DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH SPF.
BLUSH
THEY ARE DRY.
I HAD SOME SUNBLOCK ON, BUT...
OH, TH-THANKS.
I TAN EVERY SUMMER SINCE I'M ON A SPORTS TEAM.
OH YEAH. TENNIS, RIGHT?
HELL NO!
NO WAY! I DON'T TAN, I BURN!
DON'T YOU LIKE TO TAN?
AN IN-DIRECT KISS...
THEN AGAIN, I'VE ALREADY KISSED HER DIRECTLY.


THAT DAY...
I ACTED WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT IT.
SUGI-SAN!!
A TOKEN OF MY GRATITUDE!
TA-DA!
ANNA SUI
THIS IS FOR YOU!
OH, YOU MET SOMEBODY AT THE GOKON, EH? CONGRATS!
BUT WASN'T...
THAT GUY...
EHEHE.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
IT'S NOT MY BIRTHDAY.
REALLY? FOR ME?
THANKS TO YOU, I MET MY PRINCE CHARMING!
YOU'RE, LIKE, THE GODDESS OF LOVE!
ANNA SUI


FOR ONCE, SUGI-SAN DIDN'T CAUSE TROUBLE.
THIS IS GREAT!
WOW, THANK YOU! I LOVE ANNA SUI'S NAIL POLISH. ♡
MY HONEY AND I PICKED IT OUT TOGETHER! ♡
OH, A LIMITED EDITION COLOR. ♡
PHEW.
YUCK!
?
AKKO'S...?
?
SHAKE SHAKE

AWW, YOU'RE SO BRAVE. ♡
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. SHOULDN'T YOU GET BACK TO YOUR OWN CLASS?
WE DIDN'T ACTUALLY DO ANYTHING, BUT WHATEVER.
GOTTA CHANGE THE SUBJECT...
WHISPER
WASN'T THAT THE GUY WHO BROKE YOUR HEART, AKKO? I'M SO SORRY.
DON'T WORRY-- I'LL SET UP ANOTHER GOKON JUST FOR YOU. ♡
WHISPER

OH!
THAT REMINDS ME, THERE'S THIS CUTIE I WANT YOU TO MEET!
CAN I GIVE HIM YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?
WHAT?!
NO WAY!
!
OH, BUT...
SORRY, I ALREADY GAVE IT TO HIM.
SUGI-SAN!
SERI-OUSLY?!
I SHOWED HIM YOUR PICTURE AND HE SAID YOU WERE CUTE.
I KNOW! LET'S DO A GOKON WITH TAMA-MIN!
MARI-CHAN, WHAT'S YOUR TYPE?
HUH?
UMM... WELL...
YEAH! MARI, WHAT TYPE DO YOU PREFER?
WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN A GUY?
I WISH I COULD JUST STOP...

KITASENJUU
THE TRAIN FOR KITASEN-JUU IS NOW ARRIVING ON PLAT-FORM 2.
PLEASE STAY BEHIND THE WHITE LINE.
FEEL-ING...
THIS WAY.
BRIIIIING
THE TRAIN FOR KITASEN-JUU IS NOW DE-PARTING.
I WON-DER IF...
AKKO WILL REPLY TO MY TEXT?
IF I SLEEP...
WILL I HAVE THAT DREAM AGAIN?

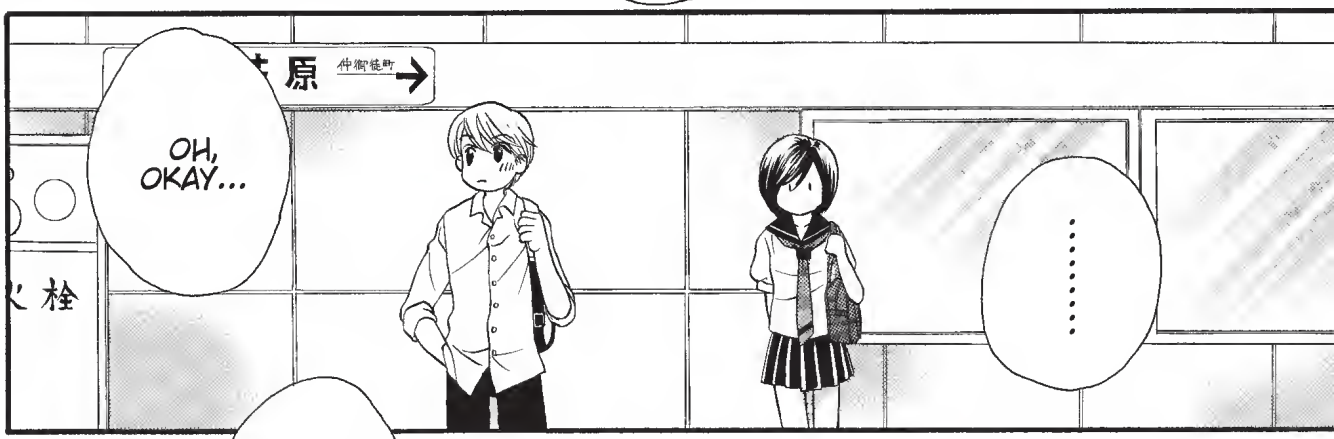
KSTFF
.....
I FORGOT TO GIVE IT BACK TO HER.
TRAIN FOR KITASEN-JUU ON PLATFORM 2...
THE TRAIN FOR KITASEN-JUU IS NOW DE-PARTING.
IF AKKO GETS A BOY-FRIEND...
AND BREAKS UP...
AND GETS ANOTHER BOYFRIEND...

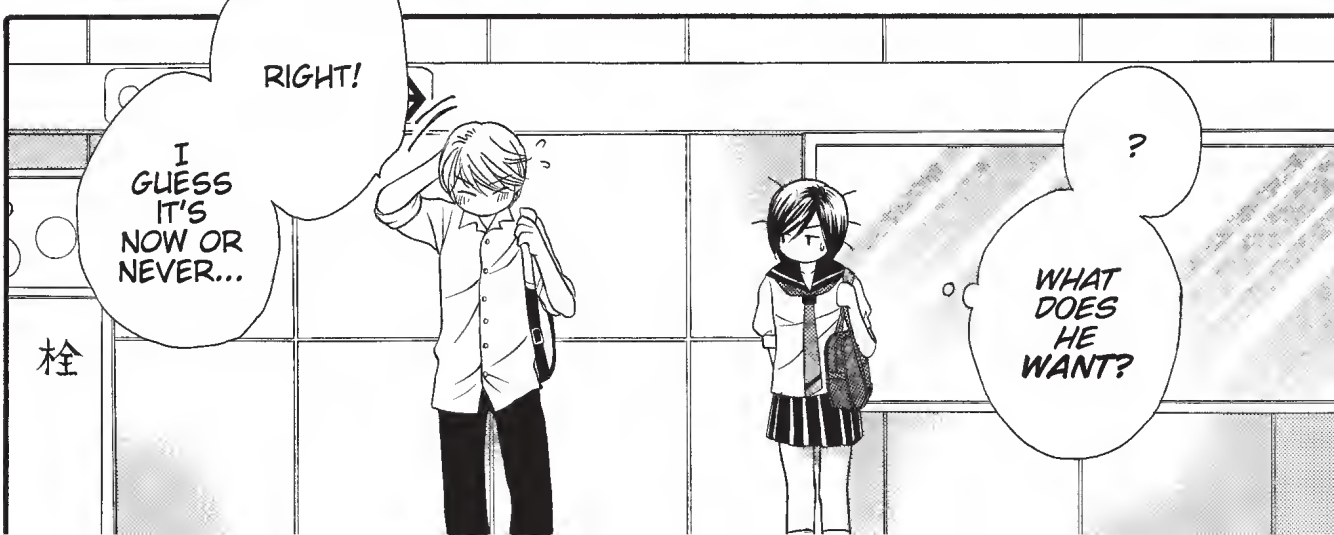
EVERY TIME AKKO DATES SOMEONE, IT'S GOING TO BREAK MY HEART, **EACH AND EVERY TIME.**

I CAN'T DO IT.

KUMA-KURA?
ARE YOU WAITING FOR SOMEONE?
HUFF
IT'S BEEN A WHILE...
HI!
OH, THE GUY FROM THE OTHER DAY.

公園方面2
UM...
I SAW YOU FROM THE TRAIN, SO...
I GOT OFF AT NAKAOKACHI-MACHI AND CAME BACK HERE.
ARE YOU WAITING FOR A FRIEND OR SOME-THING?
NO, NOT REALLY.


仲御徒町
OH, OKAY...
.....


RIGHT!
I GUESS IT'S NOW OR NEVER...
?
WHAT DOES HE WANT?

KU-KUMAKURA... ARE YOU SEEING ANYONE?
?
I'D ASK YOU...
AND THAT IF YOU WERE STILL HERE, KUMA-KURA...
I TOLD MYSELF THAT I WOULD GO BACK...
WHEN I SAW YOU FROM THE TRAIN...
IF YOU AREN'T...
WILL YOU...
WOULD YOU GO OUT WITH ME?

I NEVER GOT TO ASK YOU IN JUNIOR HIGH, BUT...
I...
I'VE LIKED YOU SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
AH!
GRIP
WE CAN START OFF SLOW, JUST TEXTING EACH OTHER AND EMAILS...
OKAY.
EH?
SURE, I'LL GO OUT WITH YOU.

SUMMER UNIFORM & KNIT VEST.

GIRL FRIENDS — ガールフレンズ —

I HATE THE RAINY SEASON!!
ZAAA
AND I JUST STRAIGHT-ENED MY HAIR.
OH, AKKO, THERE YOU ARE!
TAGU! I SPENT WAY TOO MUCH TIME GETTING READY THIS MORNING. I'M SOOO LATE!
I'LL CARRY HALF.
HUH?
I GET IT. YOU WERE SO JEALOUS THAT YOU COULDN'T SLEEP LAST NIGHT, RIGHT?
CAN'T BLAME YOU.
SIIIGH.
I NEVER FIGURED MARI-CHIN WOULD BEAT US BOTH.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HAVE YOU MET HIM YET, AKKO? WHAT'S HE LIKE?
?
WHO?
WHAT'S GOING ON?

[CHAPTER 14]

SO AS A KID, YOU GAVE HIM VALENTINE'S CHOCOLATE?
SO HE'S YOUR FIRST LOVE!
HOW ROMAN-TIC!
UMM, YEAH...
I HAD FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT IT.
SO CUTE!
KYAA!
THAT'S GREAT!
IN THE SIXTH GRADE, MY FRIEND WANTED TO GIVE HIM CHOCOLATE, SO I GAVE HIM SOME TOO.
I THINK HE WAS PRETTY POPULAR.
SO HE LIVES NEAR YOU? LUCKY!
IT'S AN HOUR-LONG TRAIN RIDE TO GET TO MY PRINCE'S HOUSE.
SIGH...
I CAN'T SEE HIM AFTER SCHOOL...
AND HE WORKS A LOT.
THUD
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
!

AKKO...
BA-THUMP
G-GOOD MORN-ING.
GOOD MORN-ING...
BA-THUMP
AKKO, YOU'RE LATE!
I COULDN'T GET MY HAIR RIGHT.
YEAH, THE RAINY SEASON SUCKS.
SCREECH
BA-THUMP
HEY!
DID YOU HEAR MARI-CHIN'S BIG NEWS?!
I DID! YOU FOUND A BOYFRIEND, RIGHT?
I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU!

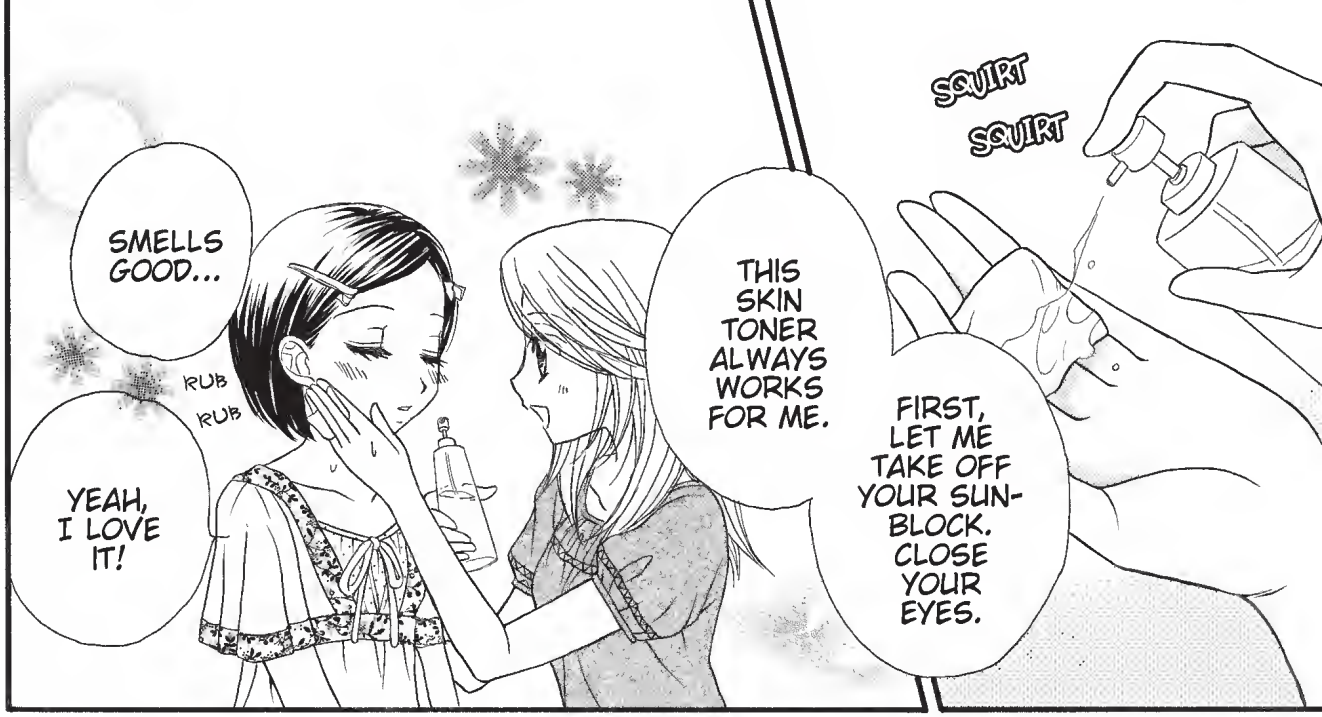
YOU ARE...?
NOPE, IT'S NEWS TO ME! TELL ME THE DETAILS!
HE ASKED HER OUT ON MONDAY.
NO NEED TO HIDE IT.
AKKO, YOU DIDN'T KNOW EITHER?
YOU SHOULD'VE TOLD US RIGHT AWAY!
SHEESH!
AND? AND?
TELL ME MORE!
WELL... I SUPPOSE...
IT'S NO BIG DEAL...
FOR AKKO.
AH!
CLENCH
I THOUGHT SHE'D BE MAD AT ME FOR KEEPING IT A SECRET.
.....
TAGUCHI SAID...
AHAHAHA! JUST NOW...

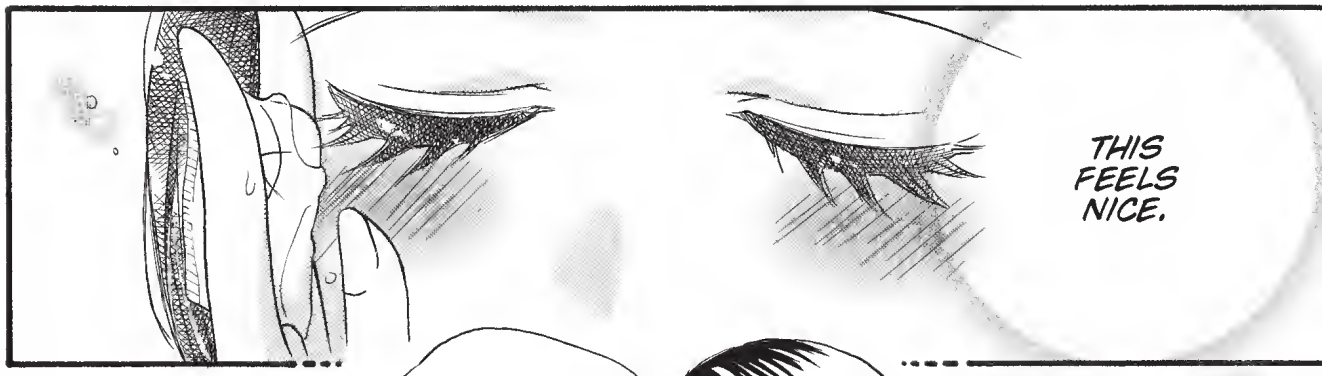
I'M JEAL-OUS.
REALLY.
STAND
AGAIN? HE'S SO INTO YOU! ♡
EXCUSE ME.
OH? IS IT FROM YOUR BOY-FRIEND?
.....
SHE KEPT TEXTING BACK AND FORTH, SO WE THOUGHT IT WAS YOU.
BUT THEN SHE SAID IT WAS FROM HER BOY-FRIEND.
WE NEED TO FIND GUYS, AKKO!
YEAH, SURE...

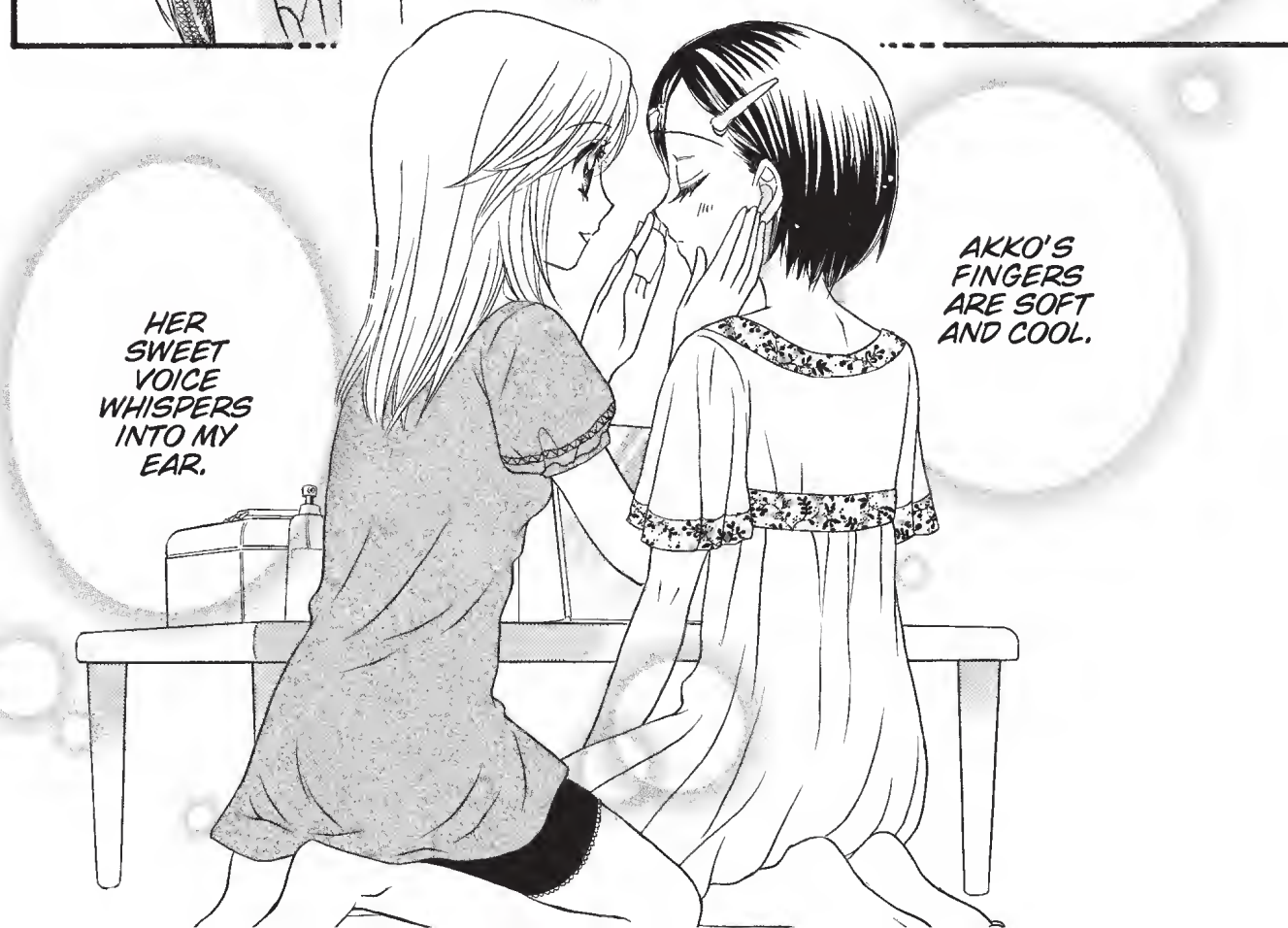
SO...
HAVE YOU GONE ON A DATE YET?
EH?
NO... NOT YET.
BUT THIS MORNING, WE RODE THE TRAIN TOGETHER.
SO HE RIDES THE SAME LINE AS YOU. THAT'S NICE! ♬
YES...
WE'RE GOING TO SEE A MOVIE SUNDAY.
!
SUNDAY? YOUR FIRST DATE?
UH...
WHEN AND WHERE?!
SHIBUYA AT NOON ...?
W-WHY?
MARI...
COME TO MY HOUSE FIRST!!

C'MON! IT'S MY BEST FRIEND'S FIRST DATE!
I'LL MAKE YOU LOOK EVEN PRETTIER FOR YOUR DATE!
REMEMBER HOW I WANTED TO GIVE YOU A MAKEOVER? ♪
WHY?!
C'MON!
IT...
IT'S OKAY, REALLY.
PLEASE LET ME HELP! ♡
"BEST FRIEND."
FLINCH
HEARING THAT USED TO MAKE ME SO HAPPY...
NOW IT MAKES ME WANT TO CRY.
HI, MARI!
COME ON IN!
HI, AKKO.

I HEARD ...
HAVE A SEAT.
DID YOU HEAR? IT'S SUPPOSED TO RAIN ALL AFTERNOON!
THAT SUCKS!
WOW, THAT'S SUCH A CUTE DRESS, MARI!
YOU'RE REALLY HYPED ABOUT THIS DATE, AREN'T YOU?
I GUESS...
I DRESSED UP FOR AKKO.
ACTU-ALLY...
AH HA HA. DON'T BE SHY!
I JUST CAN'T GET HER OUT OF MY HEAD.


SQUIRT
SQUIRT
SMELLS GOOD...
RUB
RUB
YEAH, I LOVE IT!
THIS SKIN TONER ALWAYS WORKS FOR ME.
FIRST, LET ME TAKE OFF YOUR SUN-BLOCK. CLOSE YOUR EYES.

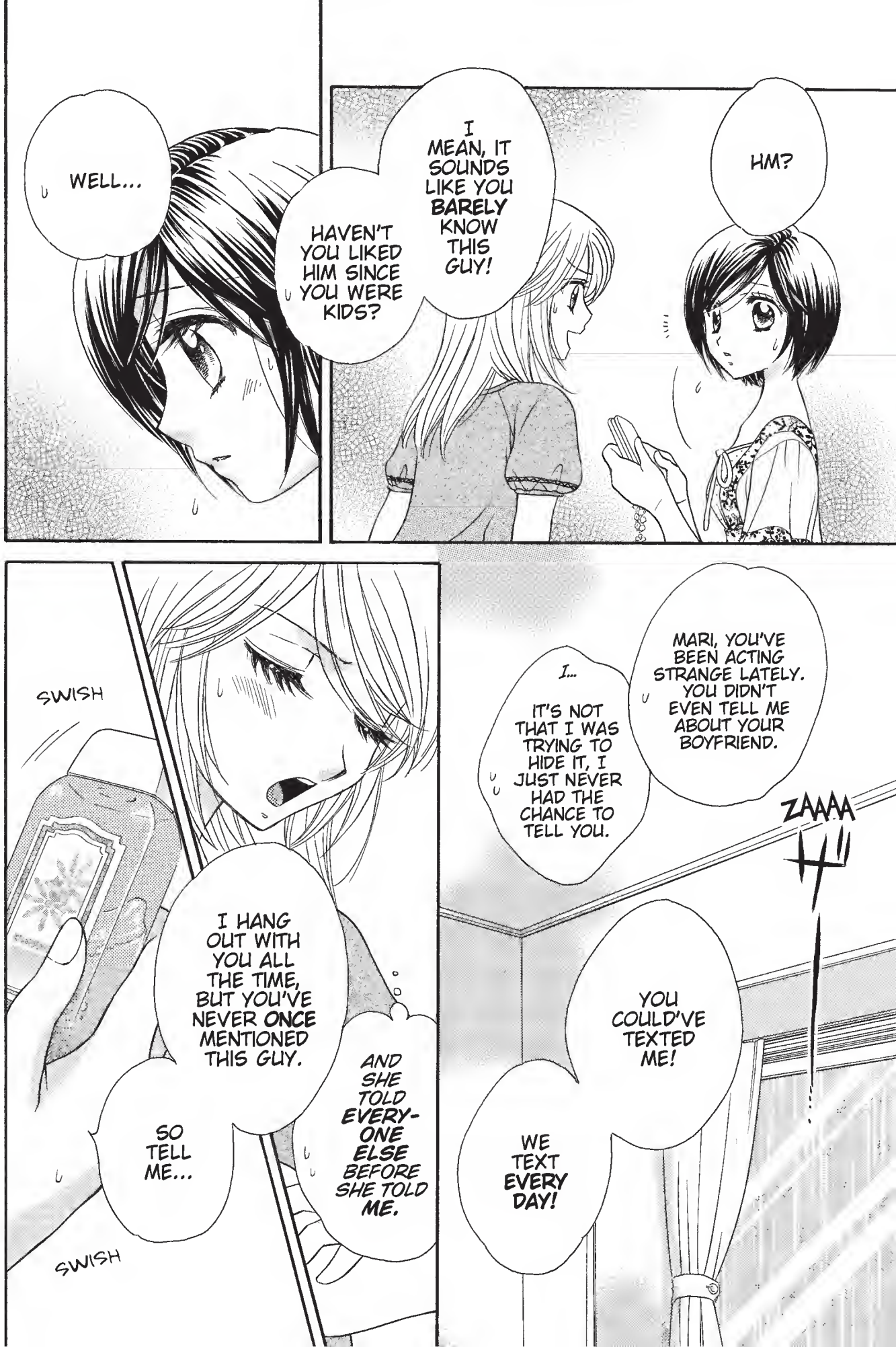

THIS FEELS NICE.


HER SWEET VOICE WHISPERS INTO MY EAR.
AKKO'S FINGERS ARE SOFT AND COOL.

I CAN FEEL THE WARMTH FROM HER BODY...
YOU CAN OPEN YOUR EYES, YOU KNOW.
YOUR SKIN IS SMOOTH, SO YOU WON'T NEED ANY FOUNDATION.
HER BREATH BRUSHES MY CHEEK...
LET'S TRY SOME LIGHT MASCARA!
CLOSE YOUR EYES AGAIN.
MARI?
DID I POKE YOU IN THE EYE?
MY HEART FEELS LIKE IT'S GOING TO EXPLODE.
AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, SOME LIP GLOSS...

AND WE'RE DONE! ♡
WHADDYA THINK?
.....
MY EYES LOOK BIGGER.
YEAH, WE DIDN'T EVEN NEED EYELINER! ♡
TH-THANK YOU.
AKKO IS REALLY GOOD AT THIS.
WAIT UNTIL YOUR BOYFRIEND SEES WHAT A TOTAL KNOCK-OUT YOU ARE!
...!
I WON-DER... IS THIS REALLY THE RIGHT THING TO DO?
PLIK
PLIK

MAYBE... I SHOULDN'T GO.
WHAT?!
IT'S RAINING... WE'LL GET WET.
YOU GUYS ARE GOING TO A MOVIE! IT'LL BE FINE!
AND YOU SHOULDN'T CANCEL AT THE LAST MINUTE, YOU KNOW?
.....
WELL... WHY DON'T YOU TEXT HIM?
UHH, WHAT'S HIS NAME?
HARADA-KUN...
WHAT'S HIS FIRST NAME?
UMM?
UH... I FORGET...
UMM...
WHAT?!
MARI, YOU DON'T KNOW HIS FULL NAME?!
OH GOD...
ZAAA
MARI... IS EVERY-THING OKAY?


WELL...
HAVEN'T YOU LIKED HIM SINCE YOU WERE KIDS?
I MEAN, IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU BARELY KNOW THIS GUY!
HM?
MARI, YOU'VE BEEN ACTING STRANGE LATELY. YOU DIDN'T EVEN TELL ME ABOUT YOUR BOYFRIEND.
I... IT'S NOT THAT I WAS TRYING TO HIDE IT, I JUST NEVER HAD THE CHANCE TO TELL YOU.
ZAAAA
YOU COULD'VE TEXTED ME!
WE TEXT EVERY DAY!
SWISH
I HANG OUT WITH YOU ALL THE TIME, BUT YOU'VE NEVER ONCE MENTIONED THIS GUY.
AND SHE TOLD EVERY-ONE ELSE BEFORE SHE TOLD ME.
SO TELL ME...
SWISH

MARI...
DO YOU EVEN LIKE HIM?
IF IT'S OUT OF SYMPATHY ...
IF YOU'RE JUST GOING OUT WITH HIM BECAUSE YOU FEEL SORRY FOR HIM...
THAT'S NOT FAIR TO EITHER OF YOU.
.....
EVEN IF THIS GUY LIKES YOU...
I'M SURE HE'D HATE TO KNOW HE'S JUST A PITY DATE, YOU KNOW?
IF THE PERSON I LIKED ...
LIKED ME OUT OF SYM-PATHY...

I WOULD BE HAPPY...
EH?
IF IT WAS ME, I'D BE HAPPY...
PITY DATE OR NOT.
BUT...
I'LL NEVER EVEN GET THAT.
MARI...?
MY LOVE...
IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN!

MARI, YOU HAVE A CRUSH ON SOME-ONE?!
AHH!
UM...
I DON'T KNOW WHO IT IS...
BUT IT'LL BE OKAY!! I'M SURE IT'LL WORK OUT!!
MARI, YOU'RE REALLY CUTE!! AND YOU'RE FUN TO BE AROUND!
IF I WAS A BOY, I'D FALL FOR YOU IN A SECOND!
I MEAN, I'M NOT A BOY, BUT YOU KNOW WHAT I--
PUSH

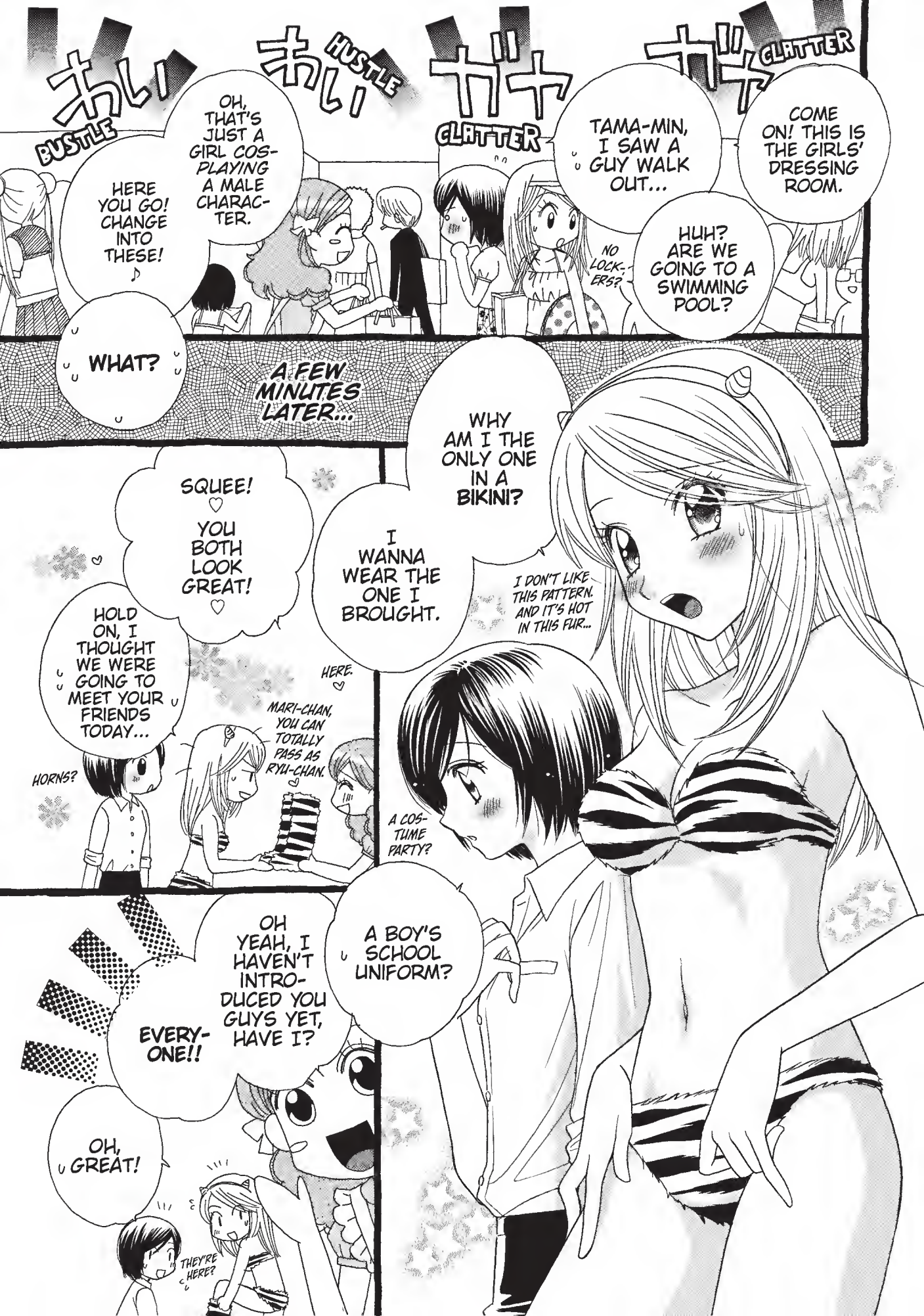
AKKO...
YOU'RE SO MEAN.
HUH...?
M-MARI?
WAIT--

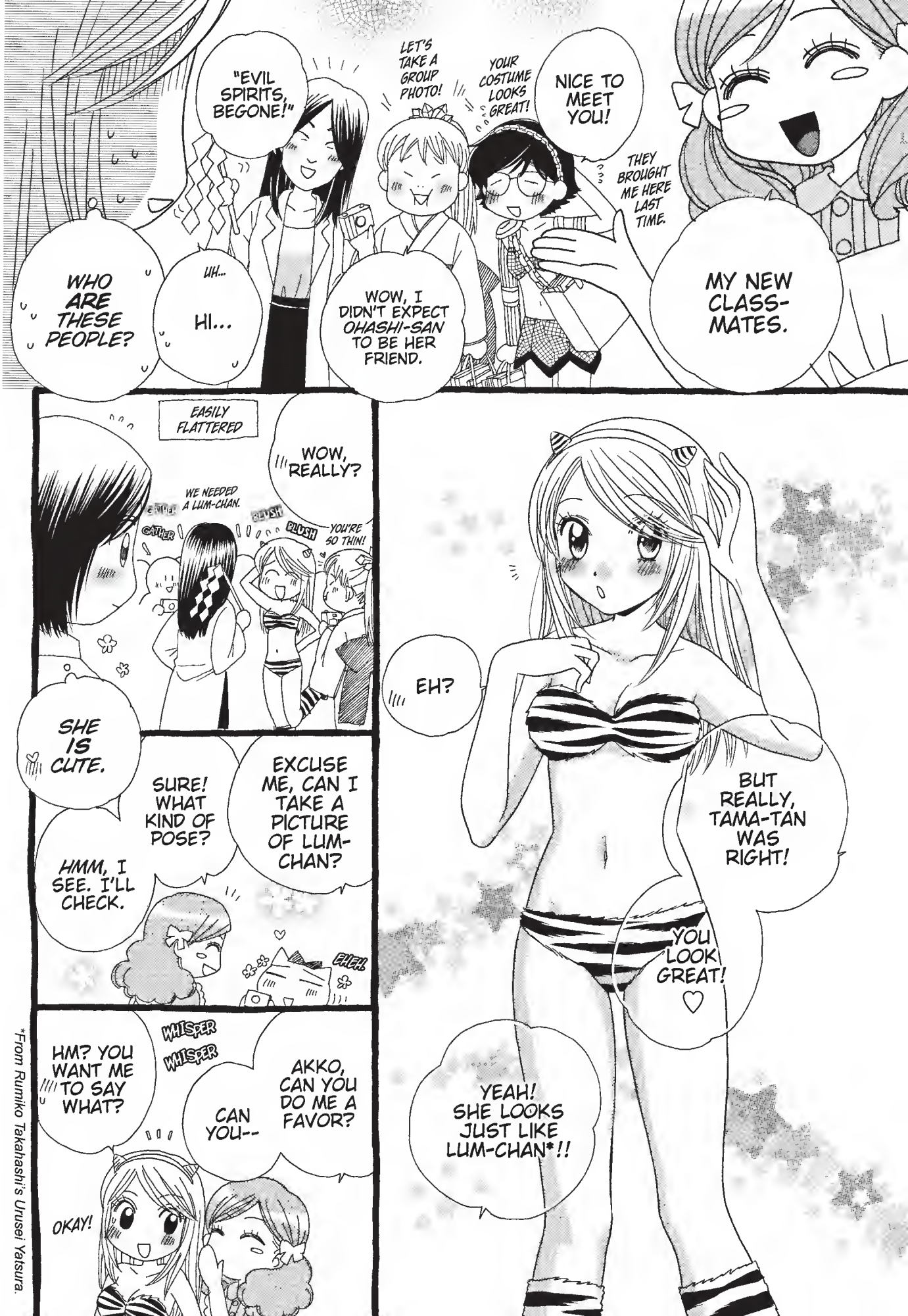
PLIP
SEE...?

ZAAA
IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN, WILL IT?
.....
SOME OF THE GLOSS CAME OFF...

GIRL FRIENDS — ガールフレンズ —

EXTRA MANGA 1
TAMA-MIN WANTED TO INTRODUCE US TO HER NEW CLASS-MATES TODAY.
SO, AKKO AND I WAITED FOR HER.
HEY, MARI! SORRY I'M LATE!!
AH...
EH?
HUH? I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO THE BEACH?
ARIAKE HAS A BEACH, RIGHT?
A LIFE PRESERVER?
IT'S A POOL RING, SILLY! I BOUGHT IT ON THE WAY HERE. ♡
AKKO? ARE YOU GOING TO THE BEACH?
TAMA-MIN, YOUR OUTFIT IS BIG-TIME LOLI TODAY...
OH, I'M COSPLAYING RAN-CHAN! ♡
HUH? RAN-CHAN?
LOVELY LOLITA
ろりーん
CHANGE
THE HALL IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER! ♡
WHAT? BUT TAMA-MIN SAID SOME-THING ABOUT A BIKINI.
IT DOES, BUT I DON'T THINK YOU CAN SWIM THERE.
YOO-HOO! THANKS FOR COMING, GUYS! ♪


BUSTLE
HUSTLE
CLATTER
CLATTER
OH, THAT'S JUST A GIRL COS-PLAYING A MALE CHARAC-TER.
HERE YOU GO! CHANGE INTO THESE! ♪
WHAT?
TAMA-MIN, I SAW A GUY WALK OUT...
NO LOCK-ERS?
HUH? ARE WE GOING TO A SWIMMING POOL?
COME ON! THIS IS THE GIRLS' DRESSING ROOM.
A FEW MINUTES LATER...
WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE IN A BIKINI?
I WANNA WEAR THE ONE I BROUGHT.
I DON'T LIKE THIS PATTERN. AND IT'S HOT IN THIS FUR...
SQUEE! ♡ YOU BOTH LOOK GREAT! ♡
HOLD ON, I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO MEET YOUR FRIENDS TODAY...
HORNS?
HERE. ♡
MARI-CHAN, YOU CAN TOTALLY PASS AS RYU-CHAN. ♡
A COS-TUME PARTY?
A BOY'S SCHOOL UNIFORM?
OH YEAH, I HAVEN'T INTRO-DUCED YOU GUYS YET, HAVE I?
EVERY-ONE!!
OH, GREAT!
THEY'RE HERE?



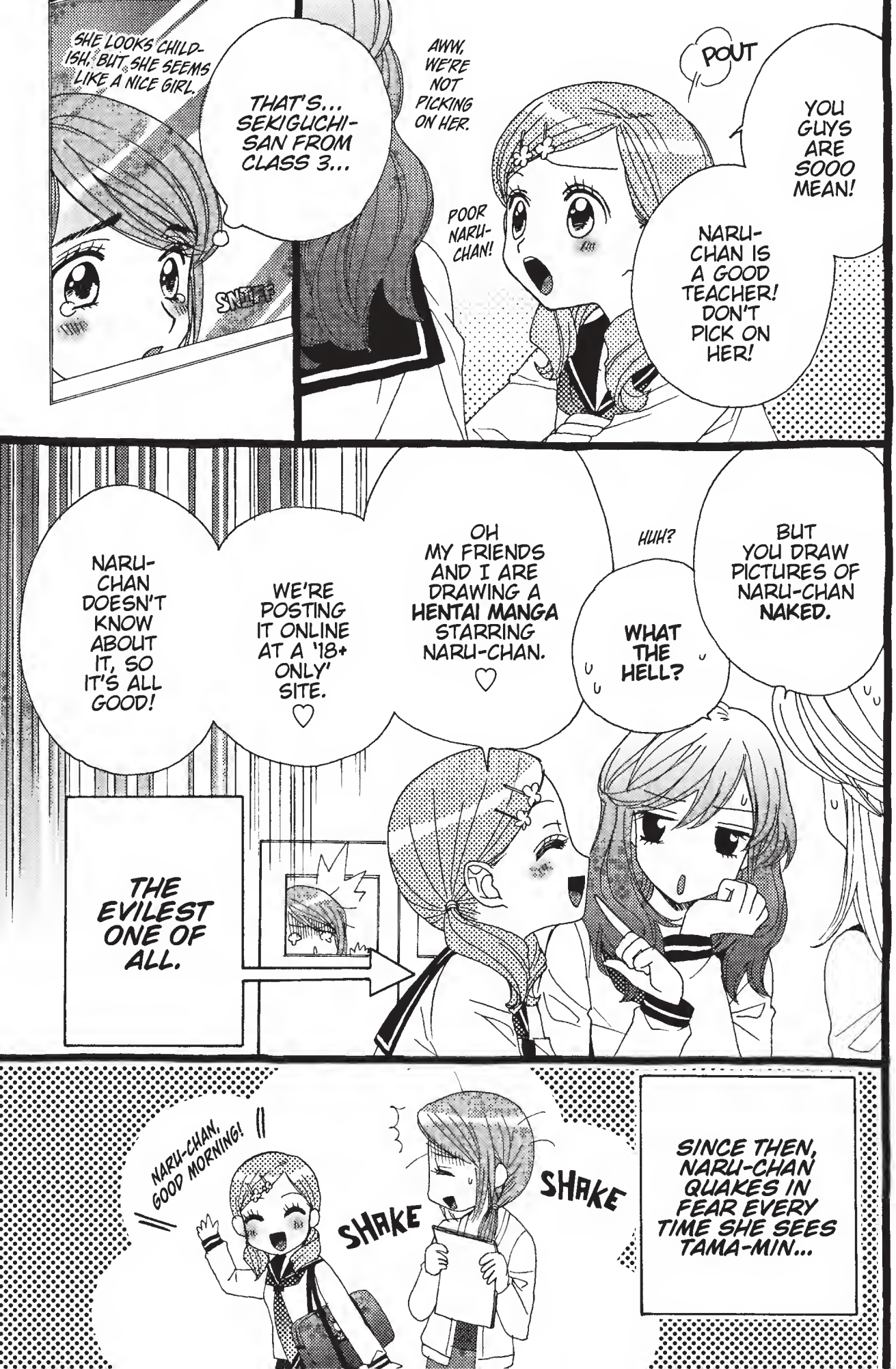
*From Rumiko Takahashi's Urusei Yatsura.

SMOOCH♡
MARI! MARI!
C'MERE!
?
HUH?
DARLING! ♡ I LOVE YOU, CHA! ♡
ムギュッ♥
SQUEEZE
I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT A KISS, BUT WHATEVER.
THE NEXT DAY
I WOULDN'T MIND...
GOING AGAIN...
IT WAS FUN, BUT I'LL PASS NEXT TIME.
OH, SO YOU WENT? SHE ASKED ME TO WEAR A HEAVY BLACK COAT AND FUR HAT. I TOLD HER, "NOT IN THIS HEAT."
OH, DO IT AGAIN! DO IT AGAIN! I WANT A PICTURE TOO!!
WAHHH !!!
SNAP
SNAP
SNAP
SNAP
YEAH.
SO, SHE'S ATARU.
GASP
TOTALLY!
DARLING, HUH?
SHE'S KINDA WEIRD.
TAMA-MIN HAS SOME STRANGE FRIENDS.

EXTRA MANGA 2

YOU BITCH! FIVE-TIMING?! ONLY YOU WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS... OHH, SATOKO, I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT YOU.
OSAMU
HAHA, OKAY. I LIKE THE WAY YOU STRING GUYS ALONG. ♡
TETSUYA
I AM SATOKO-SAMA'S LOYAL DOG. A DOG DOESN'T COMPLAIN ABOUT WHAT ITS MASTER DOES. ♡
HIRO
I KNOW YOU'LL CHOOSE ME IN THE END. BTW, YOU WANT ANYTHING? HOW ABOUT A NEW BAG?
TORU
GOOD TO HEAR FROM YOU. ♡♡♡ DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. ♡ CALL ME SOON, OKAY? I MISS YOU. ♡
YUICHI
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
WHEN IT COMES TO GUYS, I PREFER MASO-CHISTS. ♡
NO KIDDING...
BUT SUGI-SAN IS STILL LOOKING FOR TRUE LOVE...?
HER SOUL MATE WILL HAVE TO BE THE ULTIMATE MASO-CHIST.
I'M GLAD HER TYPE ISN'T THE SAME AS OURS, BUT...
BUT SUGI-SAN HOLDS OUT HOPE...
I'LL BE WAITING! ♡

EXTRA MANGA 3


SHE LOOKS CHILDISH, BUT SHE SEEMS LIKE A NICE GIRL.
THAT'S... SEKIGUCHI-SAN FROM CLASS 3...
SNIFF
AWW, WE'RE NOT PICKING ON HER.
POOR NARU-CHAN!
POUT
YOU GUYS ARE SOOO MEAN!
NARU-CHAN IS A GOOD TEACHER! DON'T PICK ON HER!
NARU-CHAN DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT IT, SO IT'S ALL GOOD!
WE'RE POSTING IT ONLINE AT A '18+ ONLY' SITE. ♡
OH MY FRIENDS AND I ARE DRAWING A HENTAI MANGA STARRING NARU-CHAN. ♡
HUH?
WHAT THE HELL?
BUT YOU DRAW PICTURES OF NARU-CHAN NAKED.
THE EVILEST ONE OF ALL.
NARU-CHAN, GOOD MORNING!
SHAKE
SHAKE
SINCE THEN, NARU-CHAN QUAKES IN FEAR EVERY TIME SHE SEES TAMA-MIN...

THIS IS MY FIRST TIME HAVING A SECOND VOLUME. DON'T ASK HOW MANY YEARS IT TOOK TO GET HERE.

I HOPE IT HAS A NUMBER 2 ON IT...?

THIS IS MORINAGA. GOOD AFTERNOON! THANK YOU FOR PURCHASING

GIRL FRIENDS VOLUME 2

(INCLUDING THOSE WHO BORROWED IT, TOO.)

ABOUT GIRLS KISSING EACH OTHER... I DIDN'T DO IT IN JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL... BUT DURING COLLEGE, I TOOK A LOT OF PRINT CLUB PHOTOS OF MY FRIENDS AND I KISSING EACH OTHER. I TREASURE THEM TO THIS DAY.

WE DIDN'T HAVE CELL PHONE CAMERAS IN THOSE DAYS...

I WAS A LONELY OTAKU BACK THEN.

PECK

EHEH.

I... I DID IT AGAIN...

PROBABLY DOING THIS NOW.

AT THE END OF VOLUME 1, MARI-CHIN KISSED AND RAN... GIRLS ARE SO COMPLICATED...

I'M ACTUALLY 20 YEARS OLD.*

THISH IS JUICE, HOKAY?

AH!

OH YES... IT MIGHT BE TOO LATE BUT... DON'T DRINK IF YOU'RE UNDERAGE!!

OH, THIS?

GIRLS WOULD SAY, "IT'S NORMAL FOR GIRLS TO KISS EACH OTHER," BUT IF WE EVER SAW GUYS DOING THE SAME THING, WE'D TOTALLY FREAK OUT. GIRLS ARE SUCH STRANGE CREATURES...

EWWWW!

SMOOCH

PRINT CLUB

UNREAL!

*The legal drinking age in Japan is 20.

*Look for all the "Extra Manga" episodes in the back of Girl Friends: The Complete Collection 2!

THE THEME FOR THE LAST TWO WAS...

S&M

NOT THAT YOU GUYS WOULD KNOW WHAT THAT IS...

YEAH... RIGHT...

THE THEME WAS "YURI."

I'D WRAP MY CHEST IF I COSPLAYED RYU-CHAN.

NOT "COSPLAY"... BUT YOU KNEW THAT...

BY THE WAY, THE FIRST THREE "EXTRA MANGA" EPISODES WERE PART OF COMIC HIGH! DOUJINSHI SOLD AT COMIKET*.

MOVING ON, NEXT UP IS VOLUME 3!! THE YURI IS HEATING UP! BUT I'D LIKE TO COVER OTHER GIRLS IN THE SERIES... THERE ARE A FEW GIRLS WHO HAVEN'T MADE IT INTO THE SPOTLIGHT YET.

OH, YOU MEAN ME...

TAGUCHI URARA

WHEN GIVEN A THEME, I REALLY STRUGGLE TO COME UP WITH IDEAS... I WISH THE THEME FOR THE COMIC HIGH! DOUJINSHI COULD ALWAYS BE YURI... THEN I'D BE ABLE TO DRAW STORY AFTER STORY.

B-BUTLER... AND MAIDS... I SEE...

I FEEL LIKE A HACK WHEN I READ ALL THE GOOD STORIES BY OTHERS.

THE NEXT VOLUME WILL FOCUS ON AKKO'S PERSPECTIVE. AKKO AND MARI'S RELATIONSHIP WILL TAKE A NEW TURN. BUT THAT'S ALL I'M GONNA SAY!

UNTIL NEXT TIME!!

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

GIRL FRIENDS

story and art by **MILK MORINAGA** VOLUME 2

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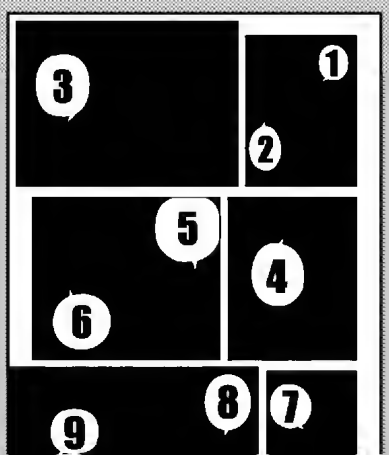
READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from ***right to left***, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at



Where does friendship end and love begin...?

When it comes to grades, bookish high school student Kumakura Mariko is at the top of her class—but socially, she's at the bottom. Shy and introverted, she usually eats her lunch alone. Enter the charismatic and gorgeous Ohashi Akiko, whose goal is to become Mariko's new BFF and burst her out of her timid shell.

In the process of transforming "Plain Jane" Mariko into one of the cutest, most popular girls in school, deep feelings begin to emerge that suggest something more than friendship. Will these feelings destroy the budding relationship between Mariko and Akiko, or will it blossom into something else?

This collection contains the first two-and-a-half volumes of *Girl Friends*, written and illustrated by Japanese yuri icon Milk Morinaga.